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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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Issue 125 September 2016

HONG KONG SCORPION

Scorpion Scale Models' 1:35 scale conversion

M10 TANK DESTROYER

Painting Tamiya's brand new 1:35 scale kit

TRACKED EXPRESS

AFV Club 1:35 M18 Hellcat Tank Destroyer

INSIDE: 1:35 T-44M ■ 1:35 Pz.Beob.Wg.II ■ 1:35 Tetrarch ■ 1:35 M109A3G ■ Melbourne Model Expo 2016 ■ and more...

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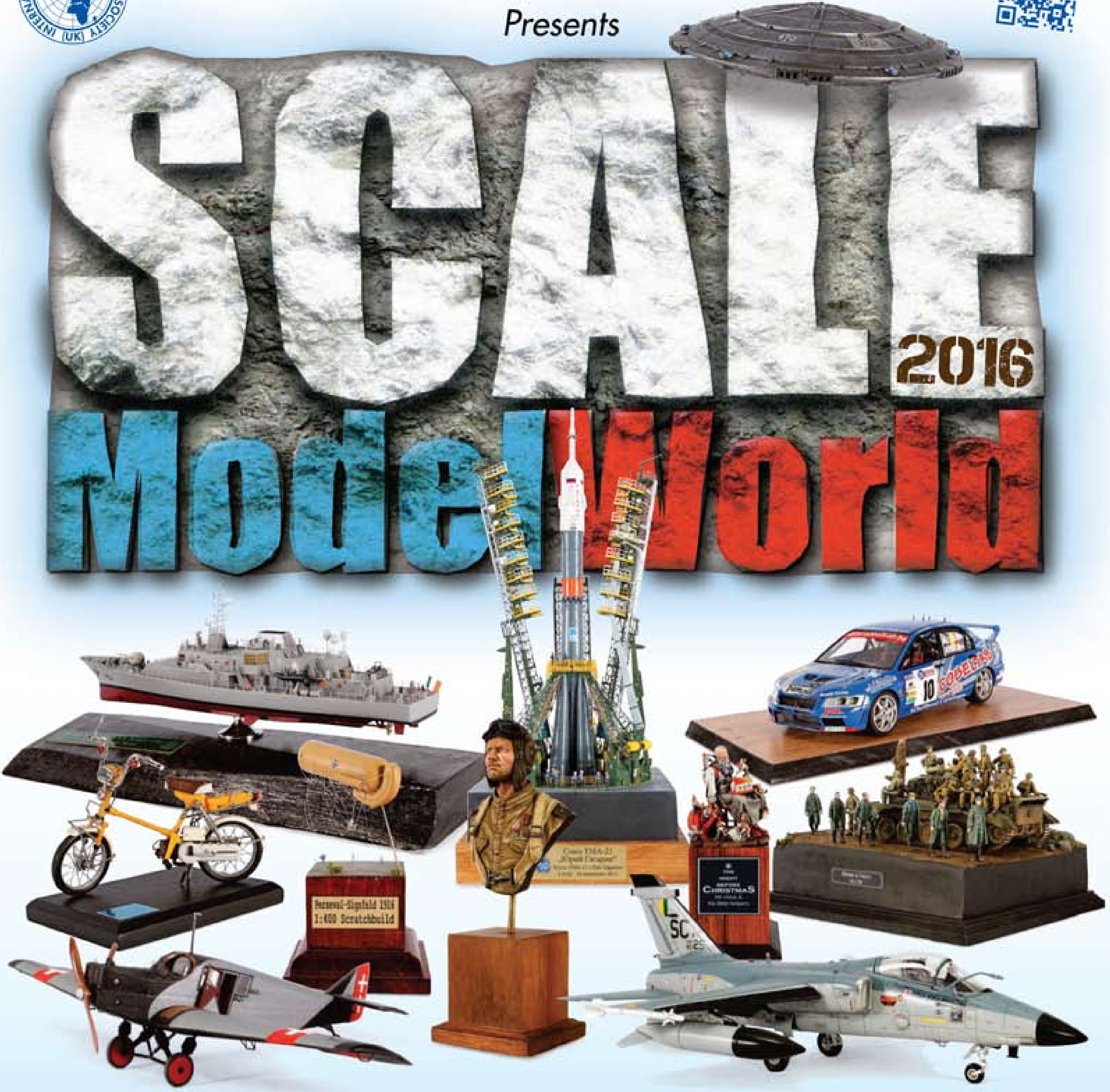

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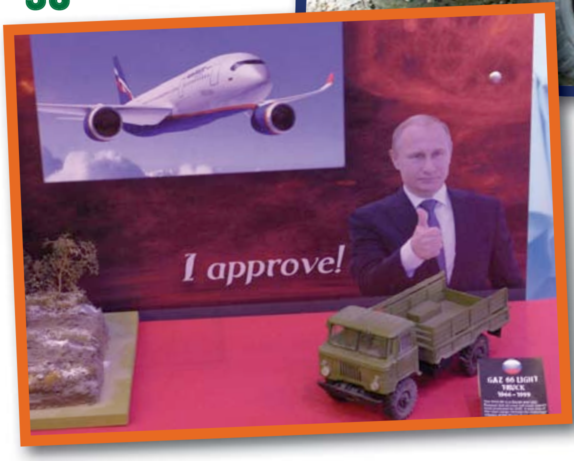
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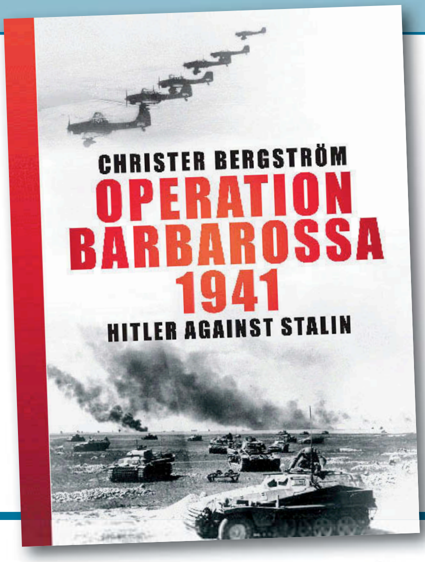


OPERATION BARBAROSSA 1941

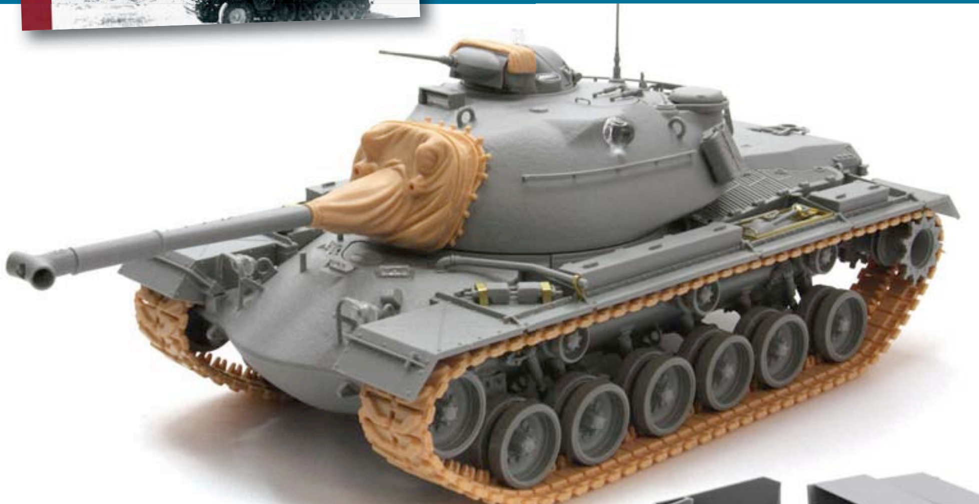
On the 75th anniversary of the largest and bloodiest conflict in human history comes Christer Bergström's definitive account of the showdown between Europe's most notorious dictators: Hitler and Stalin.

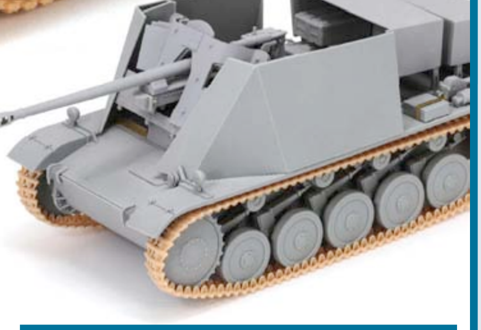
Casemate UK has announced the publication of Operation Barbarossa 1941 by world renowned historian Christer Bergström. This benchmark new study of the 6.8 million soldier conflict contains rare, unpublished images, while dispelling several prevalent myths of the conflict. This is an objective, balanced account, published in time for the 75th anniversary of the start of Operation Barbarossa on 22nd June 2016.

Operation Barbarossa was the largest military campaign in history. Springing from Hitler's fanatical desire to conquer the Soviet territories, defeat Bolshevism and create 'Lebensraum' for the German people, it pitted two diametrically opposed armed forces against one another. Based on decades of research work in both German and Russian archives, as well as interviews with a large number of key figures and veterans, Operation Barbarossa 1941 brings our knowledge on the war on the Eastern Front several big steps forward.

Hardback available for £35.00 online from Casemate UK and book retailers worldwide.

Thanks to Casemate for the information and image ***www.casematepublishing.co.uk***





NEW DRAGON RELEASES FROM THE HOBBY COMPANY LIMITED

The Hobby Company has sent us images of two interesting new 1:35 scale releases from Dragon.

They are kit no. D6721 5cm PaK 38 auf Pz.Kpfw. II (Sf) and Kit No. D3565 Magach 1 & 2 (2 in 1). We'll have full reviews of these kits upon release.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the images and information ***www.hobbyco.net***

SCALE
1:35
EARLY PRODUCTION
SU-122
35181
MiniArt

MINIART SU-122 WITH NO INTERIOR

One of the frequent questions I am hearing about some new releases that feature 1,000+ parts and complete interior detail is whether simpler versions will also be available.

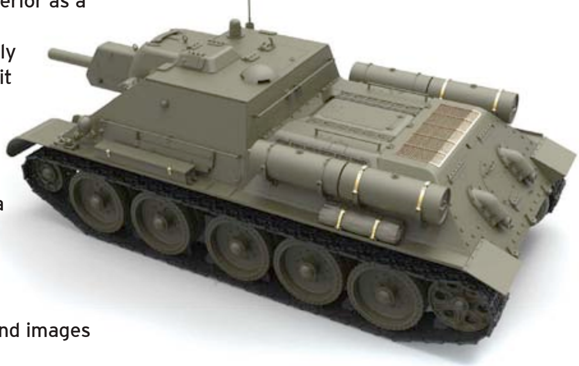
MiniArt has clearly heard these questions too, and they have responded with the announcement of an Early Production Su-122 without the interior as a future release.

Compared to 828 parts in the recently released version with the interior, the kit without the interior comprises a total of 565 parts. MiniArt advises that the price will be lower too.

The new kit will still include workable track links, 73 photo-etched parts and a high level of exterior detail.

We'll have more information on MiniArt's new 1:35 scale SU family in a future issue of MMI.

Thanks to MiniArt for the information and images ***www.minimart-models.com***



SNAP TRACKS
coming soon
GTG RESIN

GTG RESIN AND FORMER WWII PRODUCTIONS TRACKS

We have some great news for fans of WWII Productions "click-link" resin tracks from GTG Resin:

"Hello fellow modellers! My name is Gavin Cross I would like to let everyone know I have acquired all of the rights and product lines from the formerly known as WWII PRODUCTIONS. This includes all the product lines for both 1:48 and 1:35 scales series that were sold by WWII.

I am currently working on getting production up and running as you read this. Some lines have been adjusted and updated given new details that have come to light or new kits that have hit the market since they first launched. In saying that not much is needed as many of you know they were and still are fantastic tracks and sorely missed! I have a few very key people behind me on this to ensure that the end product can live up to the expectation that has been set in the past by WWII and will be expected in the future as the lines re-launch.

I am excited and proud to say these will still be produced and made in The Land Down Under and will be available via a new brand known as GTG RESIN. You can check for updates via News and Facebook https://www.facebook.com/gtgresin/

Along with the past product lines (not all will be launched at once) there will be a few new sets to come out at launch. All sales will be direct via a new webstore that is planned to launch along with the new product lines. Again I will share details on this soon.

I have an email address that you can register your interest to get on the email list as well - gtgresin@outlook.com

I hope that this news is music to a lot of ears and I look forward to dealing with all of you soon!

Happy to hear requests for what you want to see back out on the market first, or what new sets you are keen to see in the future."

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SP30KC
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Kit
A single action gravity feed airbrush and mini compressor with three power settings and airbrush holder.
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SPRAY TIME!

Single action gravity feed airbrush & compressor kit

Whether you are a beginner or an enthusiast, this SprayCraft kit is for you. Firstly, you will be impressed with how easy it is to set this up as the hose is a push for both the compressor and airbrush. If you are stuck, the kit comes with an easy step by step instructions with images.

The compressor itself is very compact and comes with a holder to place your airbrush which clips on the side of the compressor, this just helps you keep everything intact. An added bonus is how quiet the airbrush is compared to others in the market.

The single action is a method of activating an airbrush whereby depressing the trigger delivers air and drawing back on the trigger releases paint. All gravity airbrushes have a cup on top of the body, less air pressure is required as the paint is drawn to the tip.

The SprayCraft range is a collection of great value airbrushes, ready-to-use kits and accessories for the beginner as well as the enthusiast. From easy-to-use single action broad stroke to dual action detailed airbrushing, SprayCraft offers the right solution. ■

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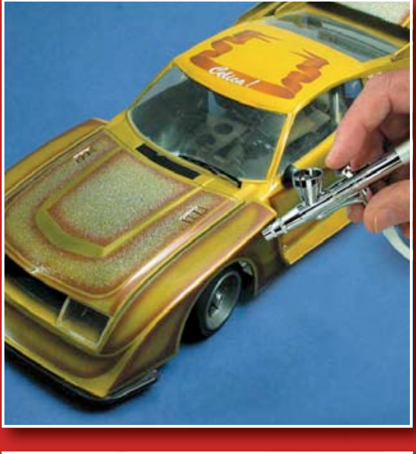
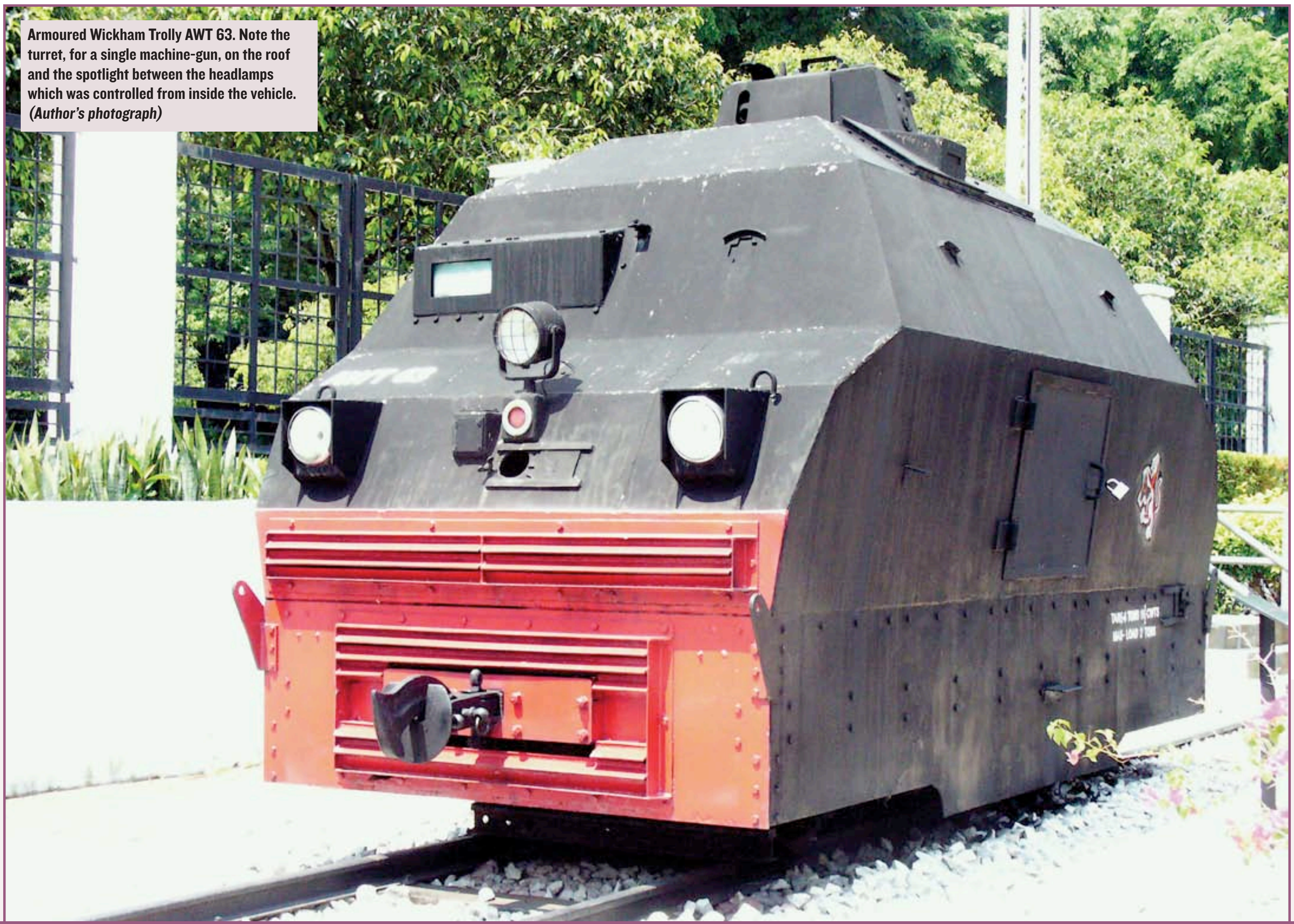
www.shesto.co.uk or alternatively contact us at sales@shesto.com





Armoured Wickham Trolly AWT 63. Note the turret, for a single machine-gun, on the roof and the spotlight between the headlamps which was controlled from inside the vehicle. *(Author's photograph)*

ROYAL MALAYSIAN POLICE ARMOURED VEHICLES

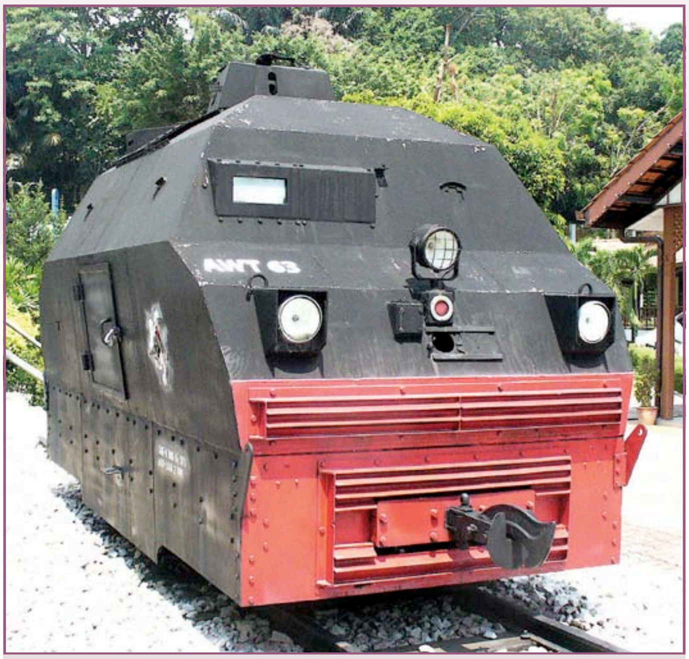
Jim Grant explores the armoured vehicles used during the Malayan Emergency of 1948 to 1960.

The Muzium Polis Diraja Malaysia (Royal Malaysian Police Museum), which opened in 1961 in Jalan Perdana, is about five minutes' taxi ride from Kuala Lumpur's Central Railway Station. It tells the story of policing in Malaya/ Malaysia since the arrival of the Portuguese in 1511 with an emphasis on the period of British control when policing was organised on a proper quasi military footing. The important part that the Federation of Malaya Police played in the 1948 to 1960 Emergency - in which 1346 policemen died, nearly four times the losses suffered by the British Army - is also covered in considerable detail. The museum also takes pride in the achievements of the present day force.

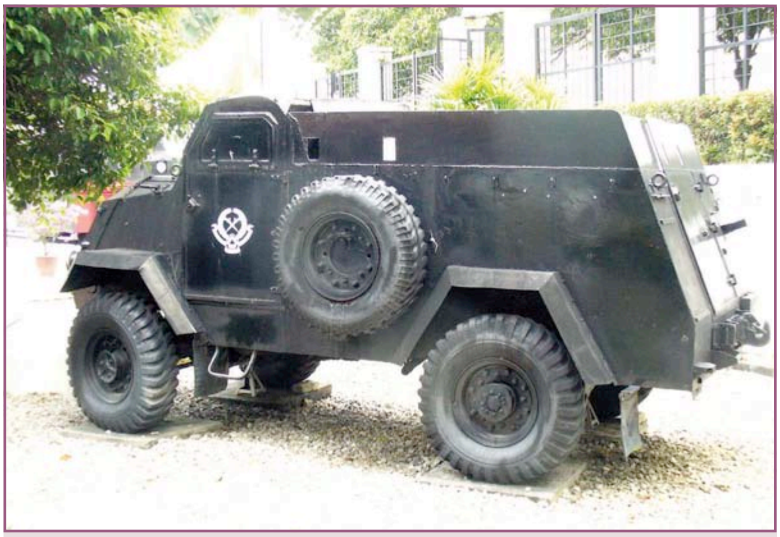
For the military vehicle enthusiast there are a number of armoured vehicles used in the emergency and in more recent times.

As you walk down the driveway to the Royal Malaysian Police Museum, the first piece of hardware you will come across is a Cessna U206G formerly of the Air Wing and it is just behind this aircraft that the items of real interest to military vehicle enthusiasts are to be found. These are an Armoured Wickham Trolly, a GMC C15TA, a Ford Lynx Scout Car and a GKN Defence (Sankey) AT 105. The first three took part in the Malayan Emergency, which lasted from 1948 to 1960, while the AT 105 did not come into service until the 1980s.

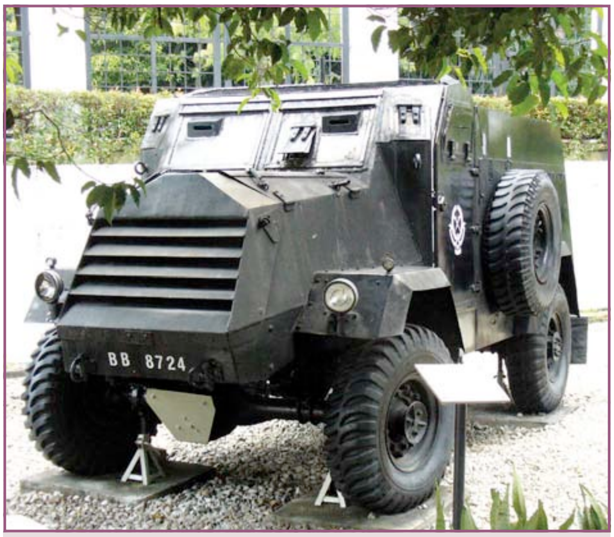
When the Communist Terrorists, commonly known as CTs, began their campaign to get the get rid of British control of Malaya, their favourite target was the railway system that passed through long stretches of sparsely populated jungle. The track could easily be lifted or blown up with little chance of being caught by the British Army.



Armoured Wickham Trolly AWT 63. Note the smooth sloaped2sides of the AWT. There are couplings at both ends of the AWT which made for easy hitching to trains. *(Author's photograph)*



GMC C15TA. The left hand side of BB 8724 a sturdy vehicle which offered good protection to its occupants. *(Author's photograph)*



GMC C15TA. This view shows the overall simplicity of the vehicle. Note the triangular plate which offered some protection to the transmission. *(Author's photograph)*

WICKHAM ARMOURED TRAILER

Temporary measures were introduced to protect the track but it was not until a number of years had passed that the ideal solution was achieved in the form of the Wickham Armoured Trailer built by D Wickham and Company of Ware, Hertfordshire. They are rather attractive little beasts which offered little in the way of handholds to an attacker wanting to climb on board. This vehicle, AWT 63, which is displayed on its own stretch of railway line, weighs two tons and was protected against bullets and shrapnel from grenades. Armed with a machine-gun, in a small turret, and a searchlight for night work it was able to carry six armed policemen, and a driver, and this number was usually able to deal with the small numbers of men which normally made up each terrorist group.

The normal tactics were to use the Wickhams either singly (they could move under their own power) to scout a section of track, or have one at the head of each train. In addition, they could be used to carry mail, money and VIPs.

With the end of the Emergency in 1960, they were immediately withdrawn from a combat role but continued in use for railway track inspection and repair. This is interesting as these vehicles were developed from a trolly that was built for track maintenance and is a good example of beating swords into ploughshares.

C15TA

Just behind this is BB 8724 a GMC C15TA armoured truck, one of many such vehicles used by armed forces of the Federation of Malaya. The museum's example was delivered to the Negeri Sembilan Contingent on September 21, 1951. It was used by the Jungle Squad which operated around the "settlement areas" which were newly built fortified villages into which traditional villagers were resettled for their own safety and to prevent the CTs from getting access to food and shelter.

The C15TA, as its designation suggests was based on the chassis of the C15 Canadian Military Pattern truck and 3961 were produced with armoured bodies supplied by the Hamilton Bridge Company.

They were widely used by the Canadian and British Armies in WWII and at the end of the war large numbers were disposed of in Europe and in South-East Asia. Some of these vehicles changed ownership several times in keeping with the political situation in the region.

These pugnacious vehicles were just armoured trucks but reliable and most useful when up against an enemy armed mostly with rifles, which made them ideal for Malaya.

With their ability to carry a driver and seven armed policemen they were useful in rushing a squad to investigate, or intervene in an incident. In addition, they carried out visits to the Special Constables' Posts scattered around the countryside, transported VIPs and payrolls. This vehicle made its last public appearance at an End of the Emergency parade in Kuala Lumpur on July 31, 1960.

FORD LYNX SCOUT CAR

The second World War Two vehicle to be operated by the Federation of Malaya Police Force was BB 8124, a Ford Lynx Scout Car, which had been designed, and built, in Canada. 3255 were manufactured

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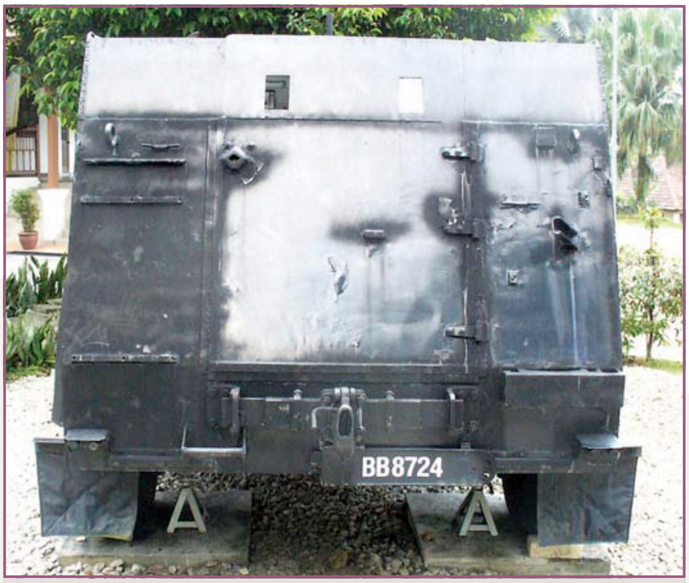
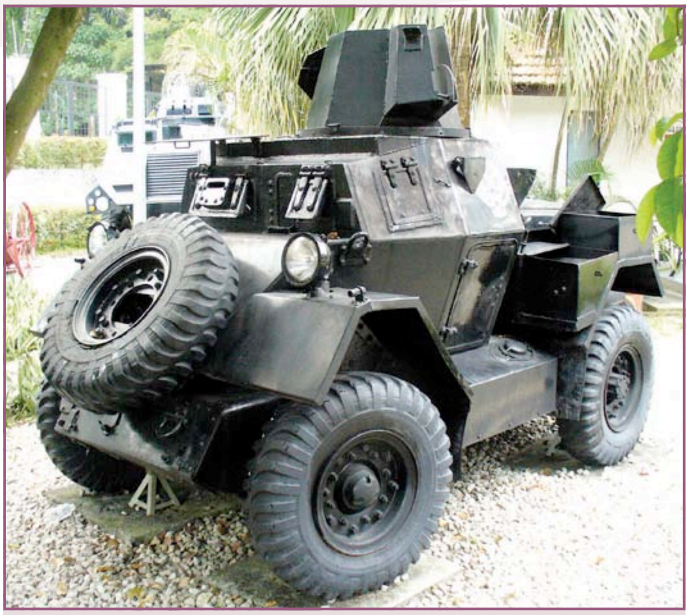
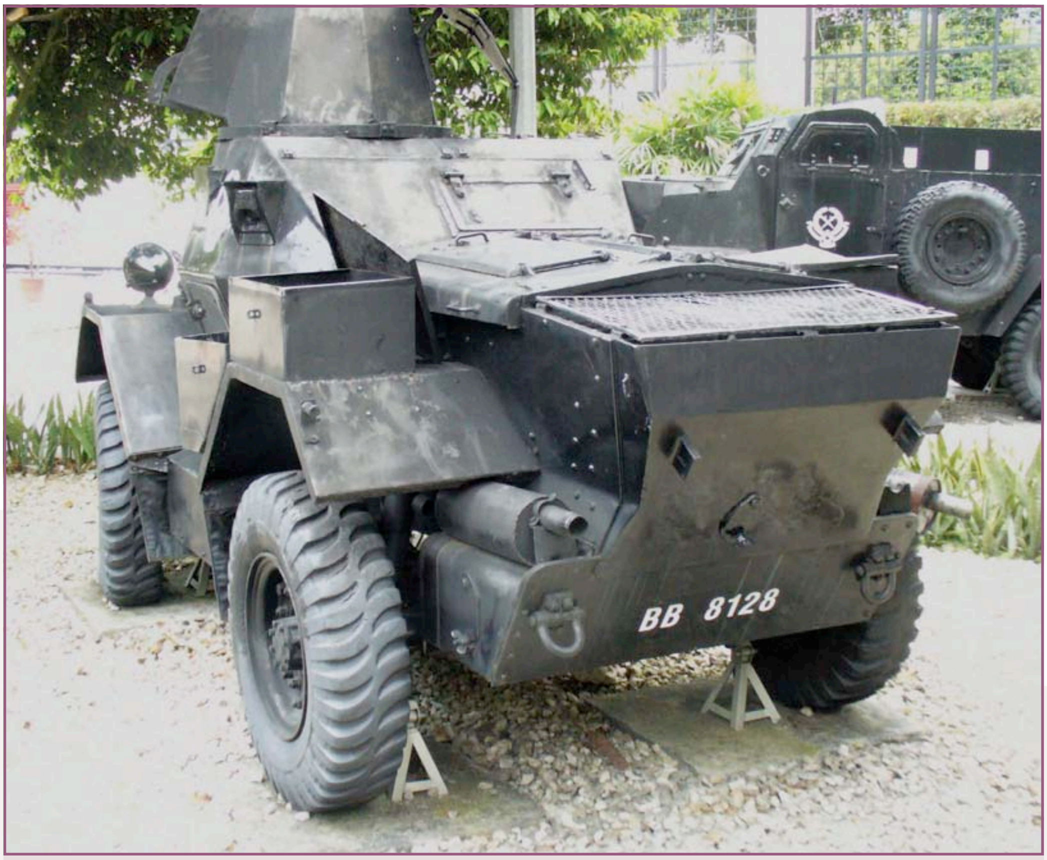


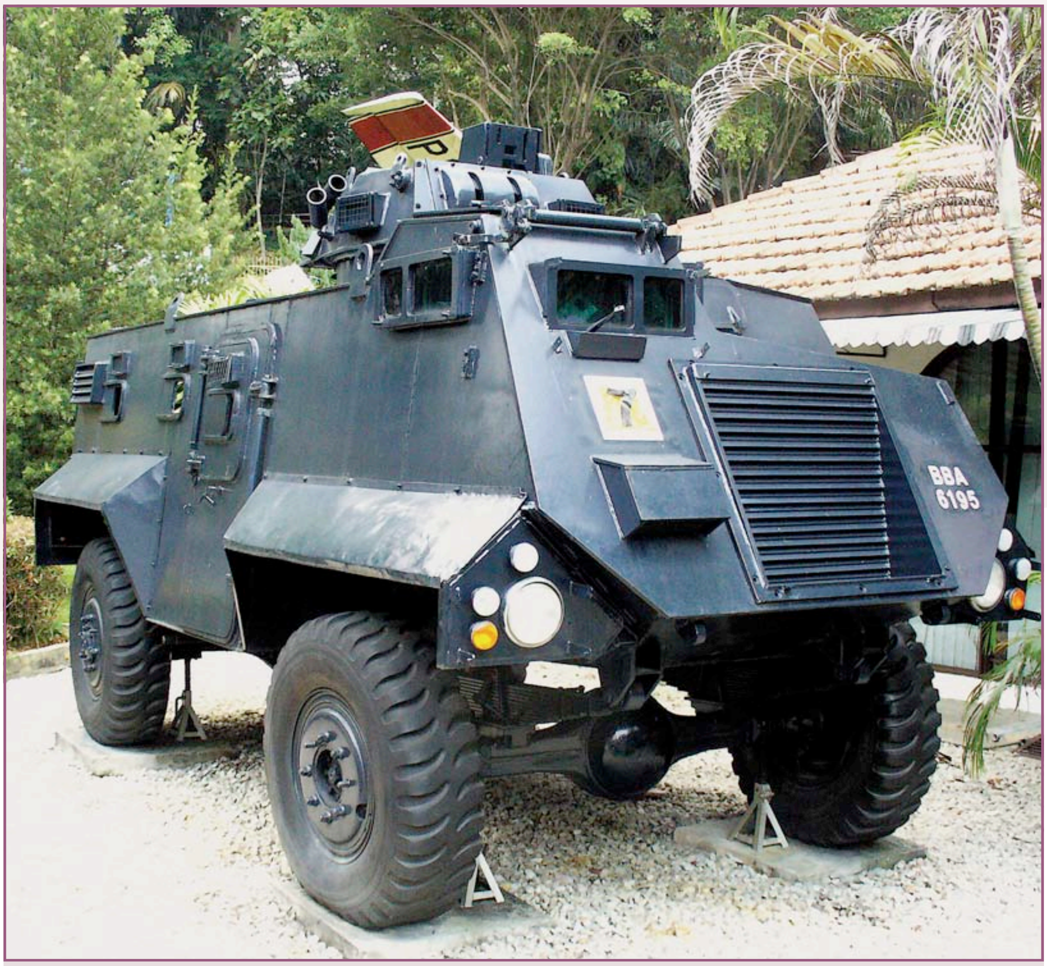
C15TA. The rear of B8724 showing the welded seams. *(Author's photograph)*



The front end of Ford Lynx BB 8128. This was another vehicle which gave good service during the Malayan Emergency as it was fast and manoeuvrable. *(Author's photograph)*



The rear end of Lynx BB 8128 and the back of the turret and the engine compartment. *(Author's photograph)*



GKN Defence (Sankey) AT 105 BBA 6195. This vehicle, with the ability to mount two 7,62 mm machine-guns, is a serious response to rioting mobs. *(Author's photograph)*

between 1942 and 1945 by the Ford Motor Company utilising hulls made by International Harvester. The Lynx I, which had a covered roof, suffered from a number of faults including overheating engines and rear axle failures that, when rectified, resulted in the vehicle being redesignated the Lynx III. The Lynx II had no roof, merely a canvas cover.

It was widely used in British and Canadian armoured units and as a reconnaissance vehicle it had only a Bren gun and a rifle in the vehicle for the crew's protection.

The example in the museum has the registration BB 8128 and was delivered to the Kelantan Contingent of the Police Force on July 24, 1952 and although capable of carrying just two people it performed its duties as a convoy escort to everyone's satisfaction. It was also most useful for transporting senior officers around their areas of responsibility.

BB 8128 has been fitted with a rudimentary turret which could take a Bren gun and like the C15TA it proved up to all the tasks it was required to perform.

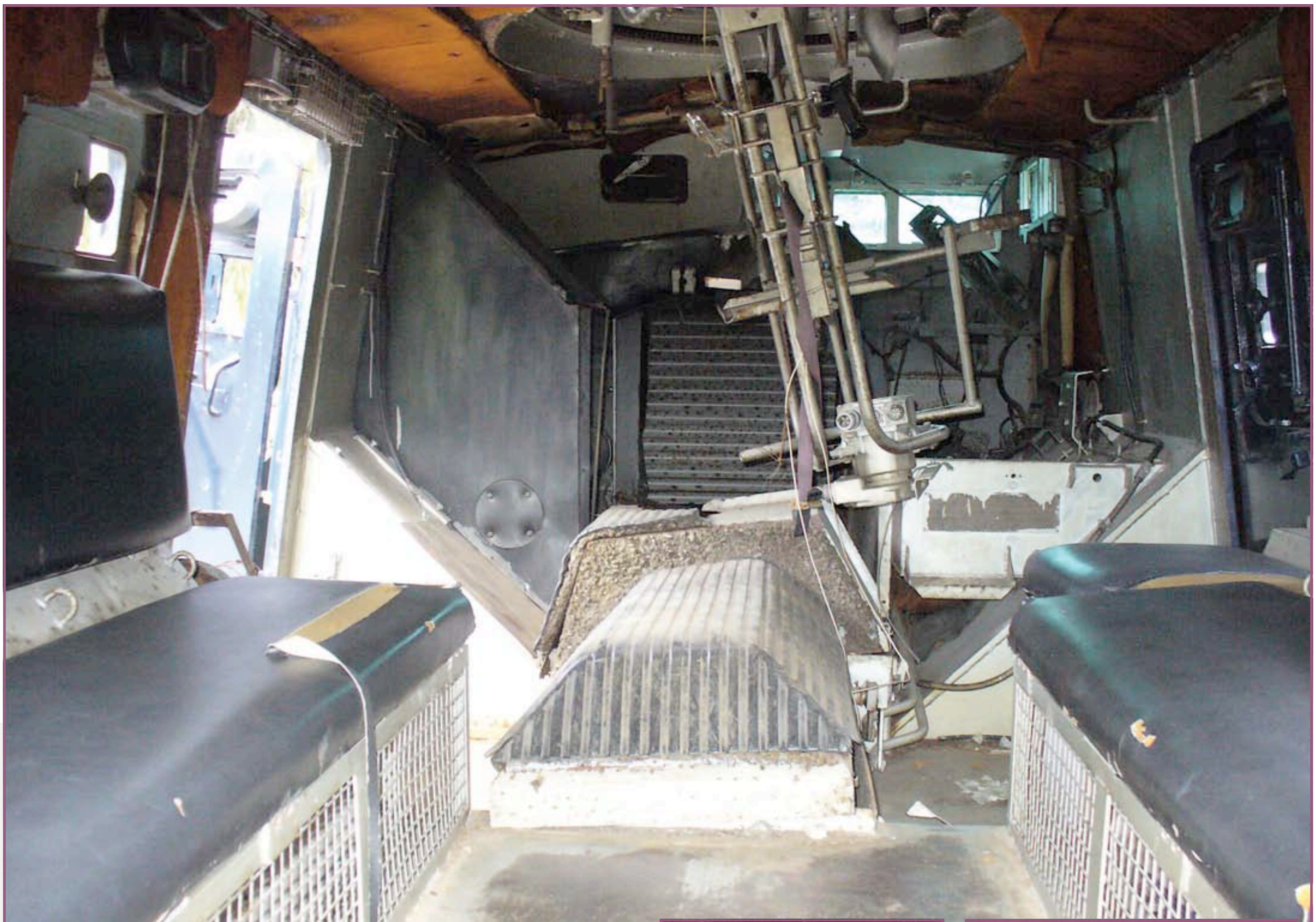
GKN DEFENCE (SANKEY) AT 105 SAXON

The last vehicle was BBA 6195, a GKN Defence (Sankey) AT 105 Saxon which began life as a private venture to produce a comparatively cheap but reliable troop transporter which would utilise as many readily available commercial parts as possible. It went through the prototype stages as the AT 102 and 104 before arriving at the definitive AT 105 and low level production began in 1976, but it was not until 590 were ordered for the British Army to replace Humber FV1609 "Pigs", Saracens and some early production FV432s that it achieved real success.

The Saxon has also been built as a command car, ambulance, mortar carrier and a light recovery vehicle.

It was designed to be blast proof by directing explosions from mines out to the side of the vehicle, to protect the two crew and eight soldiers it could carry.

Forty were purchased for the Royal Malaysian Police Force, however this particular vehicle had a comparatively short service life of just over three years. It was delivered to the 5th Armoured Car Squadron of the Central Brigade Field Force based in Cheras and then transferred to the 7th Armoured Car Squadron in Johore Province. On September 17, 1986 it was badly damaged while being driven by a learner driver and had to be written off. It then remained



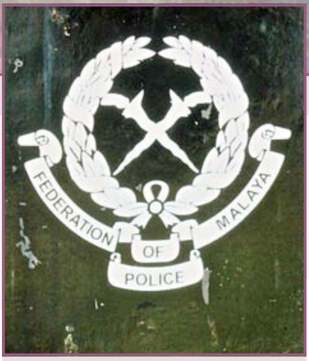
The interior of the AT 105 showing the gunner's position. *(Author's photograph)*

in storage until it was donated to the Police Museum on February 24, 1997.

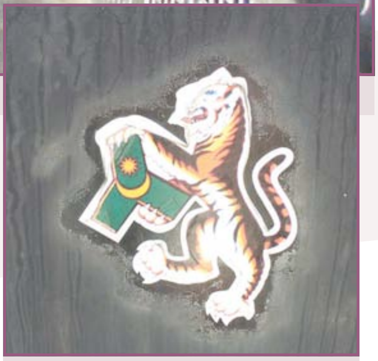
The RMPF naturally still uses vehicles, usually Unimog trucks, to transport its personnel on normal duties, however the Saxons are used when extra protection for the police officers, or firepower, is required. Ferret scout cars and Cadillac Commando V150D armed with a 20 mm Oerlikon cannon are also in service with the RMPF.

SOURCES

A visit to the museum, and information obtained from the staff in June 2010. ■


FEDERATION OF MALAYA
POLICE

The badge of the Federation of Malaya Police. *(Author's photograph)*



The badge of the Jungle Squad. *(Author's photograph)*

Mirror Models - Reflecting Reality
CMP C60S Holmes Breakdown Wrecker 3 ton 4x4 short chassis Cab 13
MIRROR MODELS
PRECISION PLASTIC MODEL
KIT NO. 35164
CMP C60L WATER TRUCK 3 ton 4x4 chassis Cab 13
PRECISION PLASTIC MODEL
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T-44M
SOVIET MEDIUM TANK
MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES
UNASSEMBLED
PLASTIC MODEL KIT
THIS IS NOT A TOY
KIT CONTAINS 853 PARTS
BOX CONTAINS MODEL OF TANK
62 PHOTOETCHED PARTS
11 CLEAR PLASTIC PARTS
780 PLASTIC PARTS
AND DECALS ARE
INCLUDED
641
37002
1:35
MiniArt

Luke Pitt examines one of the missing links of Soviet armour, but missing no more thanks to MiniArt!

TRACKED CLASSROOM

Very few tanks produced during the Second World War looked modern in the classical sense. I can think of only two - namely the American Chaffee and the Russian T-44 - that I would describe as having a modern look. Both exhibited a balanced design that was pleasing to the eye.

The T-44M was a result of a modernization program incorporating a drive train upgraded to match the one used in T-54. The upgrade included the V-54 12-cylinder engine 'starfish' road wheels and a conventional toothed drive sprocket. It also had an increased ammunition stowage and improved radio sets. The original fenders were replaced with ones in the T-54-style and configuration. The stowage was changed to the flat T-54 rectangular external fuel tanks. The tank received a mount for an antiaircraft machine gun and included T-54-style headlight cluster.

To the casual observer it is hard to distinguish between an T-44M and a T-54.

I remember if you wanted to model a Russian tank back in the 1980s it was either a T-34 or KV. If that didn't excite, then you just had to scratch build something. Times change and we seem to be awash with every conceivable Russian vehicle ever produced.

This new MiniArt comes in a large box and consists of a whopping 780 plastic parts over 81 sprues.

Also included are 62 photoetched and 11 clear parts.

Now some of you may ask, do we really need that many parts? Well, the short answer is, maybe.

If you break the parts down, 247 are for the tracks, 39 for the engine and 92 for the interior. Most modellers complain about the sheer volume of parts included in kits today but by the same token will damn them if the kit is not detailed enough.

Construction starts with the engine and in this particular version has included a crankcase and mounts that differentiate it from the first versions of the T-44. Most of the lower hull interior is then fitted to the lower hull belly pan including the workable torsion bars. The hull sides are then attached, with all the associated interior detail.

All of the plastic parts are very well done and exhibit fine detail on all surfaces.

A dry fit also reveals that all the major components go together with almost no filler required.

The assembly sequence then calls out to attach all the fiddly little parts to the hull, I would warn against this and attach these in the final assembly sequence to avoid braking them off while you build. The starfish road wheels are handled well and may be the best representations in plastic I have seen thus far.

MiniArt is known for their fine photoetch and this kit is no exception. The grille work in particular is very fine.

The tracks are of the individual type and are very well detailed. The best method for gluing these would be the "liquid glue, wait and drape" method.

The turret assembly comes next and it is quite detailed and complex. The turret halves are asymmetrical into which all the interior detail is fitted. The only poorly executed part in this assembly is the tarp at the back of the turret. It looks and feels like a CAD image and would best be replaced.

The instruction booklet is well illustrated and very easy to follow.

Four finishing options are included. The first is unidentified school tank, Red Army 1960s-70s) and the second is a 193rd Division Tank used in a Training Regiment. The third is a 24th "Iron" Division tank in Latvia 1974-76 and the last is a Tank from the Training Regiment, "Kirov" Tank Command School, Leningrad Military District, 1970s.

All are in green with the last having a white wash.

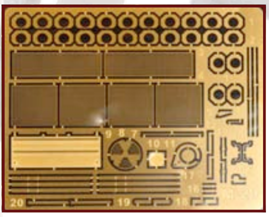
CONCLUSION

I've checked the price online for this kit and I was somewhat surprised at what good value it represents. You will want for nothing in the way of aftermarket. In this kit you have a complete interior, individual tracks, outstanding photo etch, slide moulded gun barrel and an accurate outline.

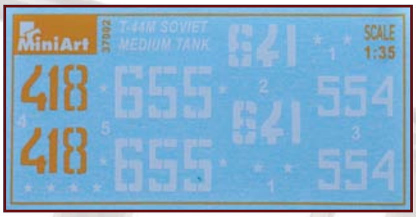
If, like me, you want a quicker build, simply disregard the interior entirely as you won't see any of it when the model is complete at any rate. The only real negative with this kit is the lack of marking choices – any colour you want as long as it is green.

Highly Recommended. ■

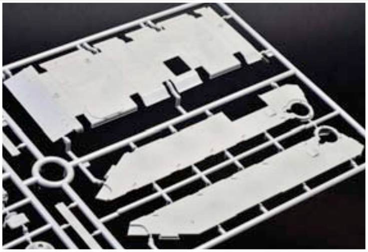
Thanks to Creative Models Australia for the sample
www.creativemodels.com.au



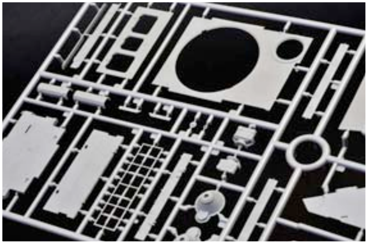
The kit's photo-etched parts.



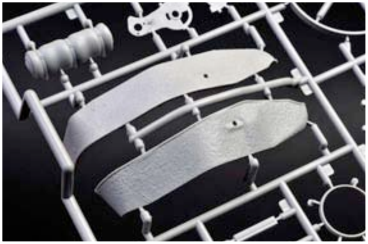
Kit decals.



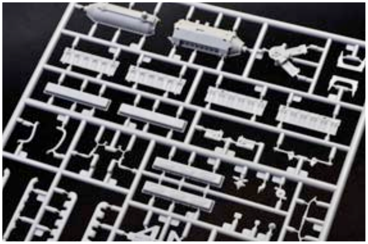
"Flat pack" lower hull parts.



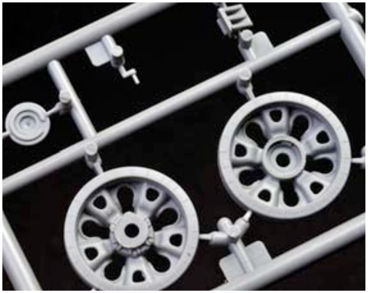
Some of the multi-part upper hull.



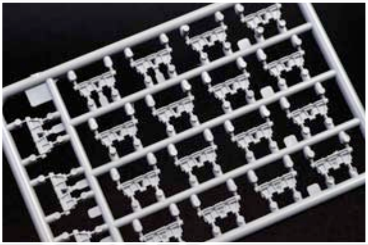
Heavy cast texture on the turret sides.



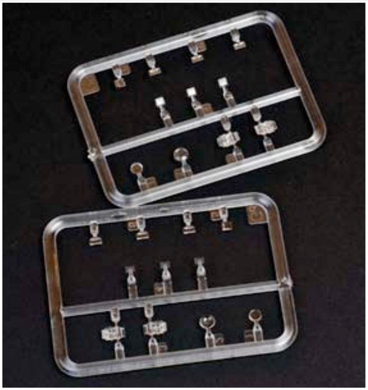
Engine detail.



Late style pressed road wheels.



Individual track links.



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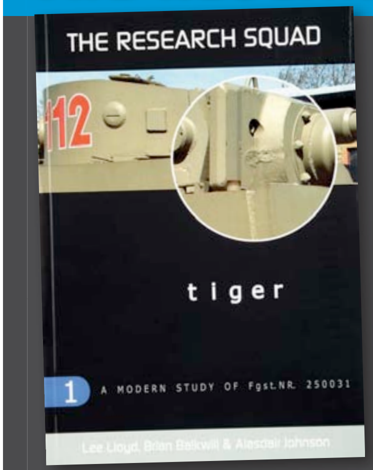
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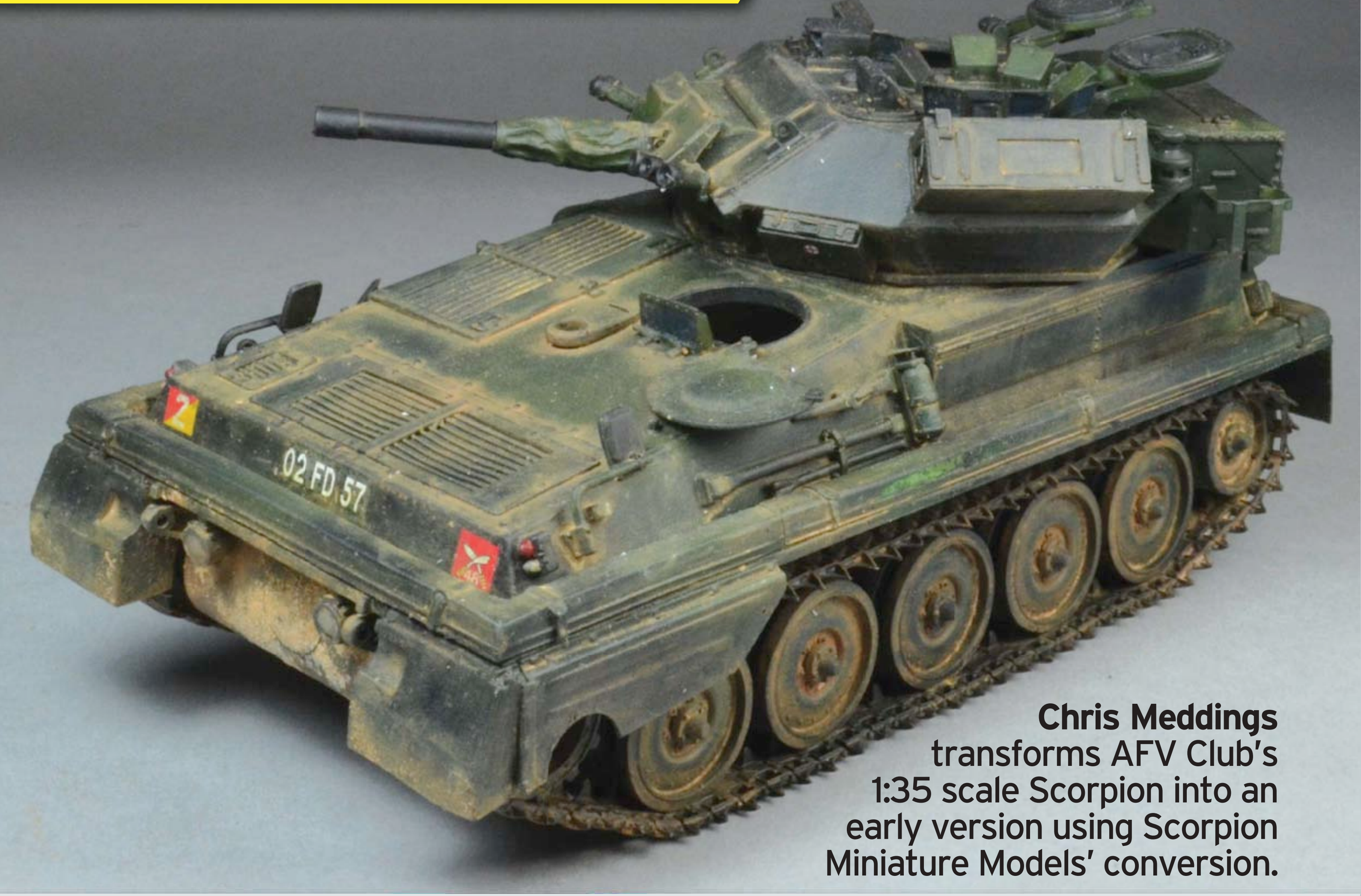


Chris Meddings transforms AFV Club's 1:35 scale Scorpion into an early version using Scorpion Miniature Models' conversion.

HONG KONG SCORPION

Like a lot of people, I've always had a liking for the CVR(T) family with its reputation for speed and long service all over the world from the 1970s to the present day with a host of users. Considering my liking for British armour of all eras, it surprised me when I realised I've never actually built one.

In particular, I have always liked the look of the earlier versions and when I found out new company Scorpion Miniature Models was releasing a conversion for the, now somewhat aging, AFV Club Scorpion I made sure I got one right away.

THE KITS

The AFV Club Scorpion is a nice kit despite its age with decent detail, good fit and a great price. Its only real serious drawbacks are that the track is too short (which means it can pull off Idlers if you are unlucky and don't replace it) and the photo-etched cover for the exhaust is exceptionally stiff, which can make it hard to form to the correct shape.

The PE is not a real issue with this conversion. The early CVR(T) had a solid exhaust cover which is replace with a resin part in the SMM kit.

Previously the best solution for the track was the Friul Model set (ATL 106). However, timing was very serendipitous because AFV Club has also just released a new set of plastic 'workable' track for CVR(T) (ref: AFV 35290). I purchased some of these via Scorpion Miniature Models, along with a set of their new decals for Hong Kong Scorpions and I was good to go.

THE BUILD

The build was very straightforward. The only parts of construction that required some planning and thought were the new suspension parts from the SMM kit, and the early transmission cover also from the SMM kit.

Conversion of the transmission cover requires cutting out the existing cover from the AFV Club upper deck and dropping in the resin part. This is not complicated but it does require some real care and precision in the cutting and removal of the AFV Club cover.

To achieve a clean, square hole of the right size, I drilled holes in the corners of the cover and scored the edges, in the recess of the moulded cover, with a fresh scalpel. This was time consuming as you can't cut too hard or deep in a single pass or the blade will slip and score the parts surrounding the cover, but with a lot of patience and care it can be cleanly cut through and removed.

I then inserted the SMM engine deck and it was just a touch smaller than the hole, so I filled around the outside, sanded smooth and rescored the panel line. You will also need to add a line of bolt heads to the deck above the transmission cover. I used one of my current favourite tools; the RP Models hex punch, to punch out some 1mm bolts.

Next I had to tackle the wading screen. Early CVR(T)s were fitted with deep wading screens fitted to the wide flange between the upper and lower hulls. On some these were enclosed in aluminium boxes, on others they were exposed. The AFV Club kit comes with neither but the Scorpion Models kit provides the boxed in version. For some reason it doesn't quite line up and truth be told I would rather the joint was next to a buckle; but with some judicious trimming and filling, I got it to work. Note that you will need to remove the bolts from the top of the flange to get the screen frame to sit flush.

On the engine access hatch, I took a few minutes to add a little individuality to the kit and carefully sliced under one of the handles to make it look like it had been bent at some point.

Next I worked on lining up the suspension. This was relatively straightforward for the most part. The torsion swing arms are numbered so they are easy enough to get in the correct position, and the Idler mount is also easy enough to place but care must be taken when placing the dampener mechanisms and arms. The simplest way to do it is; referring to reference photos, place the arms first at the right angle then place the dampeners on the ends.

After the wheels were on I had a look at the AFV Club track. Care has to be taken as it is very delicate with finely reproduced detail, finer than the alternative option; the Friul Model set. But this means that it is a little fragile. I needed to clean a little flash of the ends of each link. The set is advertised as 'workable' with no glue required. In practice they were strong enough to gently tease into shape in runs on the model, but kept coming apart so I glued them in place with a little Tamiya Extra Thin between each link. For the price, and the detail you get I would call this set the best available option and pretty essential for a good build.

The rest of the build really needs little discussion. The build was simple, and thanks to the quality of the masters and casting of the Scorpion Miniature Models set, nice and easy. There are a few locating holes to fill on the turret where parts are replaced by resin, but nothing too demanding.

The only things I added that were neither in the AFV kit or the conversion; namely a jerry can holder on the left side of the rear turret bin, and an ammo tin welded to the upper-left turret side, as seen in contemporary photos.

The can holder was made from spare strips of PE. The ammo tin is a standard pattern and I have one at home so I measured from that and made each side by laminating two thin sheets of 8thou styrene together and cutting the embossed parts out of the upper layer to get the pressed shape seen on the real thing. Handles were made from 0.3mm nickel rod from Albion Alloys.

With all that done, I had a last check around for scratches and signs of tool marks etc. to clean up and prepared to prime the build.

PAINTING

I started by priming the whole thing with Tamiya white primer from a can. I used to be a dedicated user of acrylics but last year I tried Tamiya paint and have never looked back. It's tougher, atomises far better and dries much thinner, probably because you need to put less on. It cures quickly and scratches off far less easily after it has cured. Also, and it's a huge plus for me; it never ever clogs that airbrush. I can spray all day and half the week without a full clean! With Vallejo, on a good day I might get 10 minutes before the nozzle clogged.

With a solid coat of white primer cured on the model I started with the Bronze Green of the two colour camouflage scheme. I used Tamiya IJN Green and NATO Green mixed with a little Dark Yellow. This is far lighter than Bronze Green, and much greener (you need a brown tinge for a good Bronze Green) but all of that would be addressed later in the weathering and moderating of the colour through filters.

Once this was dry, I freehand airbrushed the black camo. I have a Sotar 20/20 I use for this as it gives a superbly thin line consistently and easily. I sprayed a thicker outline of black mixed with brown and blue for the disruptive camouflage and filled it in, then used this fine line to sharpen the edges of camo patches. I mixed the black with the other colours for two reasons; firstly to lighten it slightly, and secondly to give life to the colour. Pure black is incredibly flat. It can rob the areas you use it on of detail and form because of its ability to flatten out light and shade, going lighter allows you to overcome this but never use white; it deadens the colour even further and can even make it look toy like and dull. Using colour gives a richer more lively 'black'. Also it means you can use pure black to shade.

Before I could start working on the colours overall with filters washes and weathering, I painted the details and added the decals. Its important to do this before you start weathering as the point of filters is to tie everything together, and you can't do that if it hasn't been applied equally all over.

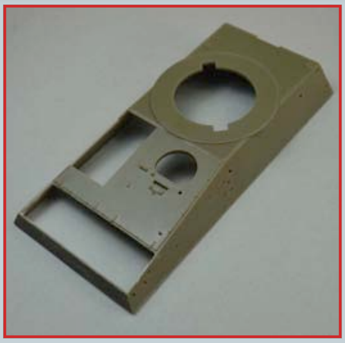
For the tyres and rubber track pads I mixed a mid-grey with Vallejo Model Colour black, white and a touch of brown to stop it being too flat. This was diluted to a milk-like consistency to aid flow and carefully added to the right parts. The metal track parts were painted with a mix of darker grey and more brown.

I painted the lights and periscopes silver next. Then when that was fully dry I used Tamiya clear orange and red for the lights, and clear artist's acrylic medium to the headlights to add a sheen. On the periscopes I painted them with a thinned light blue and when that was dry I added more acrylic medium for a glass-like sheen.

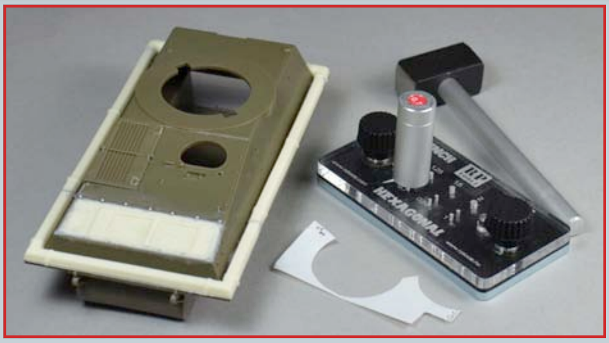
The tools presented a choice. It's pretty standard in modelling to do a nice wood finish on tool handles, but my own experience of British military tools is that they are painted green drab, so that's what I did with the tool handles on the Scorpion.

Scorpion Miniature Models provide their own set of decals for Hong Kong Scorpions which is great as options for postwar British Markings can be thin on the ground! The decals went on reasonably well but were a little fragile. Especially the AoS, so take care with your setting solutions. But they were commendably thin reducing the need to add Johnsons Klear to eliminate the edges.

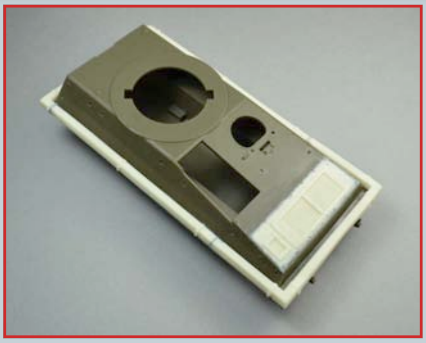
With all this done I set the model aside for 24 hours to ensure all the various painting and marking components were fully cured before weathering. ▶



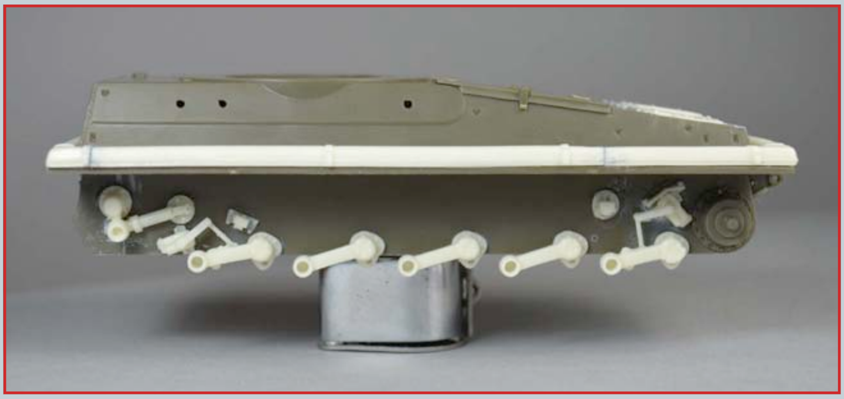
A little preparation is needed on the hull to fit the transmission cover. I drilled the corners then cut it out with a scribing tool.



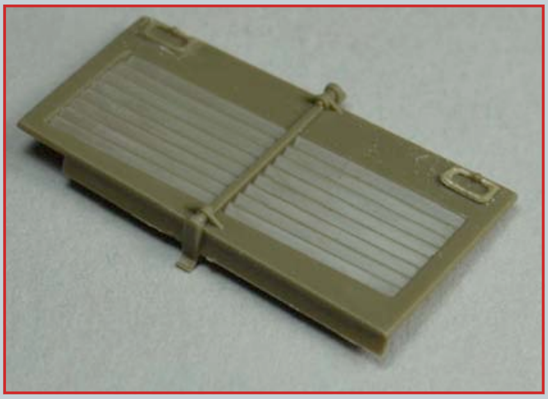
The early transmission cover was bolted on. You need to add a row above the cover. I used the excellent RP Toolz hex punch set to make mine.



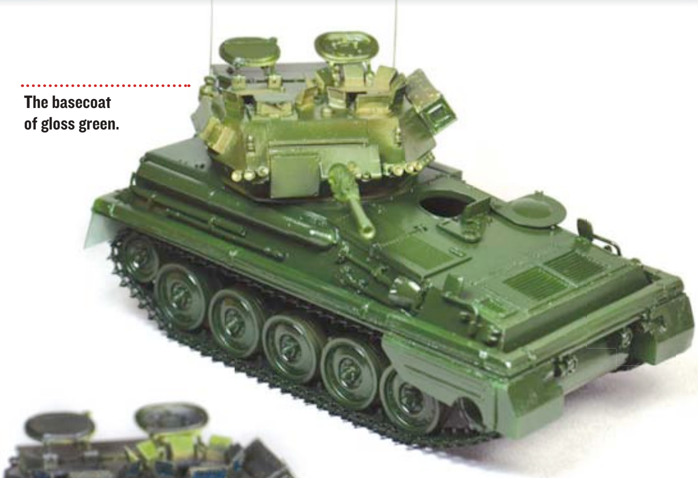
Once the transmission cover was in place I fitted the lower hull and the distinctive flotation screen. Make sure you remove the bolt heads on the lower AFV Club part before fitting the screen.



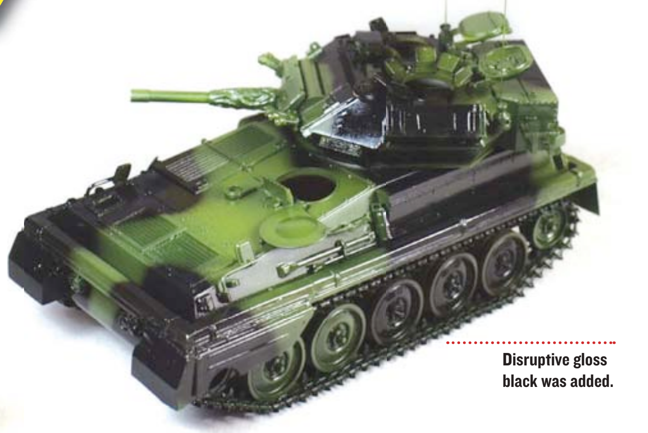
The suspension parts are beautifully rendered in the SMM set, but the location for the dampeners and arms is tricky. This is the correct layout.



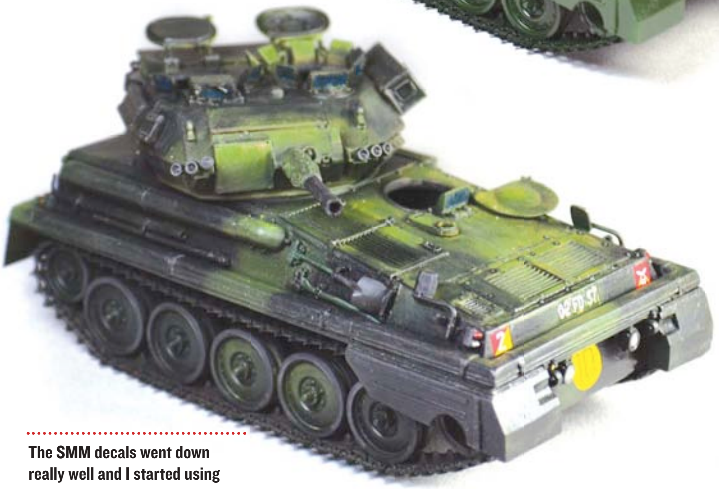
To add a little interest I sliced under one of the lifting handles on the engine vent cover and lifted and 'bent' it.



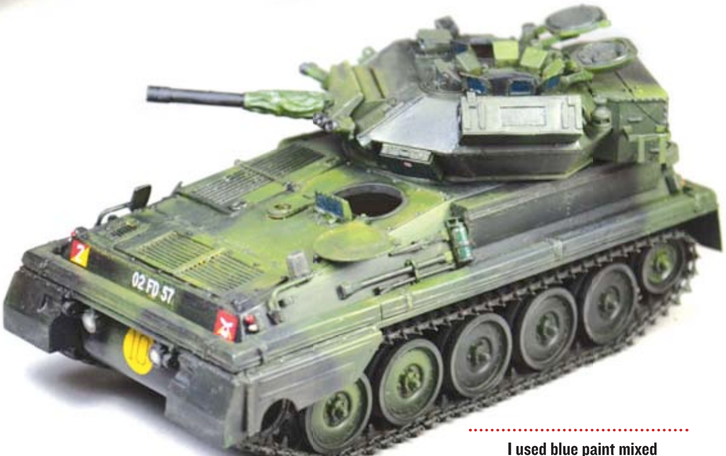
The basecoat of gloss green.



Disruptive gloss black was added.



The SMM decals went down really well and I started using oils to pick out lighter areas.



I used blue paint mixed with artist's acrylic medium for the periscope lenses

WEATHERING

I started by adding small spots of neat oil paint in lighter versions of the base colours to key areas, and blending it in with a dry brush to add highlights. Be sparing with the oil, a tiny dab goes a long way and easier to add to an effect than to try to remove it.

Next I mixed a 'filter' next of raw umber oil paint with oil thinners, and applied this all over to unify the finish a little and reduce the contrast of the camouflage for a more 'in scale' feel.

Now before I go further an admission of an error and a word of warning:

I have not long been using Tamiya paints and as much as I love them I am finding out new things about them still. In this case I found out that my regular artist's oil thinner; Windsor and Newton Sansodor, melts Tamiya paint. I managed to control it but it meant leaving the model to re-cure/resettle for a couple of days after the first filter.

For the second filter I used enamel thinner to thin the oils and had no issues with that at all on Tamiya paint. For this filter I mixed a light colour; to a sort of sand colour with various oils. For a filter you must keep it heavily diluted; more like tinted thinner than thinned paint. I wick off most of the filter from a wide soft flat ended brush and carefully drag the tip over the model from the highest elevation of a panel to the lowest.

The temptation is to keep applying it until you can see a definite effect, but the filter will dry more visible than it was wet and if it's too wet you will get tide marks and other undesirable effects. Its better let it dry then apply more later if desired. This gives you more control.

If you apply more than you want you can clean it off instantly with a clean brush dampened with thinners, but be gentle; if you do this too much you can remove previous filter layers too.

The lighter filter helped to lift everything slightly without washing it out and with the earlier darker filter acted together to add depth and variation to the finish.

At this stage I let it dry for a few hours, not long as its mostly thinners rather than paint on the model. Probably around 8 hours. When I thought it was OK to proceed I mixed some lighter green oil and added a tiny dab, maybe around a millimetre across, of neat mixed paint to selected areas and used a short bristled soft dry brush with no paint or thinner to blend it into the surface. I do this on a matt surface so only add a tiny bit at a time as the matt paint underneath will absorb it incredibly fast and it's hard to remove without removing previous applications of paint.

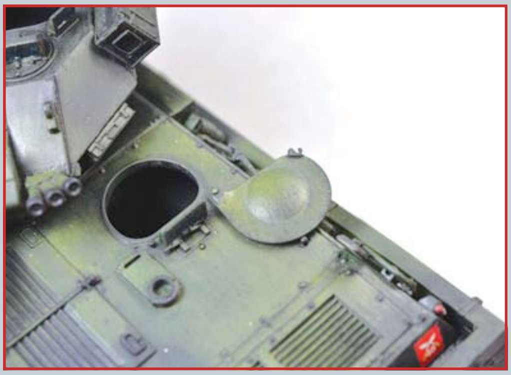
I used it to add contrast and highlight details, adding depth and interest to the finish. Less is more in this, you create the impression of contrast without making it too strong.

To add highlights to the black I mixed a lighter version of the 'black' I used for the basecoat, again in oils and again with no white at all, and did the same as the green.

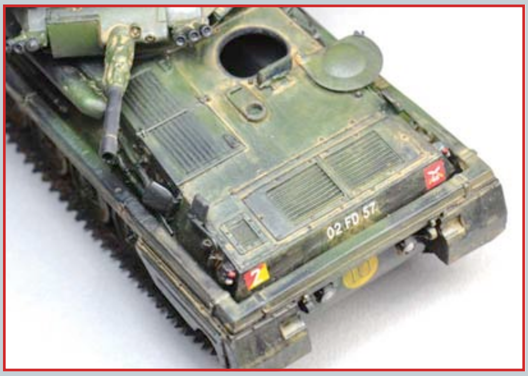
To counter the lightening, and add another layer of depth, I also used darker colours, a very dark bronze green on the green and a pure black on the 'black' to add shade. This is why I didn't use black to start with, to give me room to add shading with black later, as well as a pinwash.

This layering of oils was built up in several applications, a little at a time to ensure it achieved the look I wanted without going too far. When this was done it needed much longer to dry due to the fact I used neat oils, so I put the model aside for a couple of days, covered to stop any stray speck of dust from lodging in the drying oils.

Once this was dry I topped up the pin wash. I must admit this



Chipping was adding in various areas of high wear with dark grey acrylic applied with a sponge and fine brush.



Dust accumulation was built up with layers of diluted buff enamel and pigments.

is one of my favourite stages. I used enamels for this diluted with enamel thinner as it dissolves the paints into finer particle pigments than oil paints. I like it as it adds great definition to details, something that can be lost a little on dark camo schemes. Its best done, as with the oil stages above, in several thin applications. If you are careful (on a low 'blow' setting) you can use a hairdryer to dry each coat and get several done in an hour, but be careful; hair dryers also make resin droop so never let the actual model get warm.

DUST AND DIRT

I use two mediums for dust and dirt: Diluted enamels and oils, and pigments. I start by adding pigments, diluted (or perhaps suspended would be more accurate) in enamel thinners. I use this as a wash around areas where larger deposits would occur.

To reinforce this I used a buff coloured diluted enamel wash applying it sparingly much like a pinwash and let it around various details on the lower hull.

I kept using these two techniques and building up the effect over several applications until I had the heavy build up in some areas I required.

After this I used a dry brush to dust pigments pretty much all over the model. I used cotton buds dampened in enamel thinner to scrub the pigments from areas where I wanted it removed or thinner leaving it in areas where I wanted it. This method allowed me control the fade of the dust from very light/none to heavy build up in a realistically graduated way.

Under the hull I added to the effect of the build-up of dust by adding thicker piles and layers of pigment, fixing each layer with AK pigment fixer and waiting for it to dry before adding more.

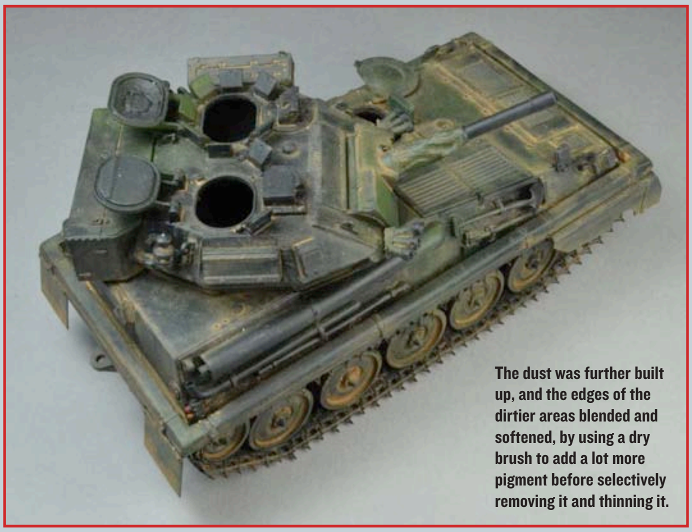
Eventually I got to a stage where I felt the look I was going for; the dust picked up by driving in high summer on dusty roads, was achieved and I finished it off with a quick spray of Tamiya flat clear to fix it all and seal it.

CONCLUSION

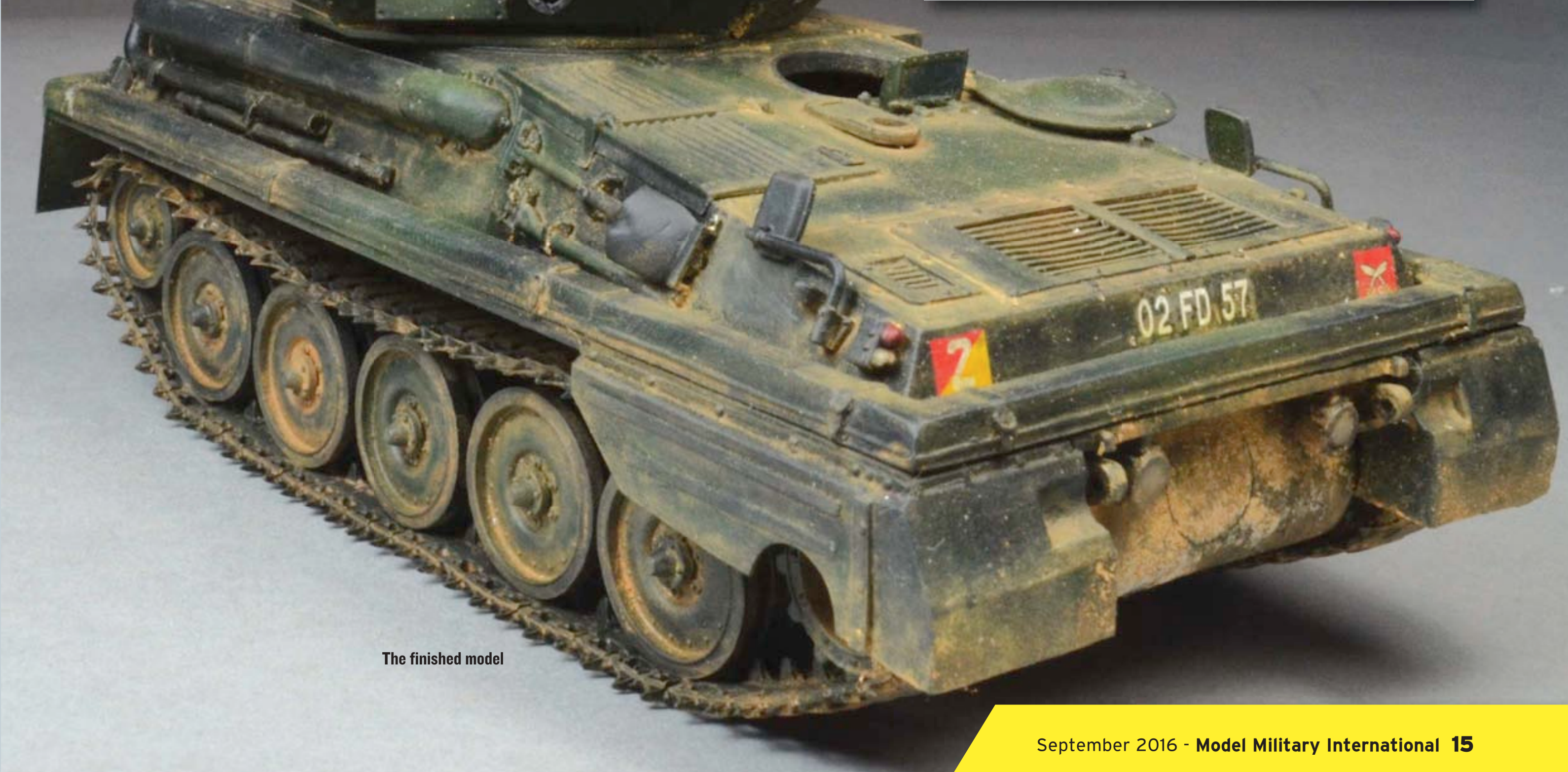
The AFV Kit holds up very well for its age. Although it is one of their earlier kits, and they have come a long way since then, it's still a very good, buildable solid kit. The track supplied in the kit has always been a problem but will early and late workable track now available from AFV Club, it's possible to more than overcome this and end up with a really good result.

The Scorpion Miniatures Models conversion is really excellent. Easy to clean up and use and a very attractive conversion. My only gripe being the separation of the screen could have been done next to a strap to help hide it, but it's a minor issue and one that did not detract from the set overall. Certainly I would build another one. The SMM decals were very thin and settled very well indeed.

An enjoyable but quick project! ■


The dust was further built up, and the edges of the dirtier areas blended and softened, by using a dry brush to add a lot more pigment before selectively removing it and thinning it.

A view from the rear.



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TRACKED EXPRESS

José Brito adds stowage and new metal tracks to AFV Club's M18 Hellcat Tank Destroyer.

The 76 mm Gun Motor Carriage (GMC) M18 was an American tank destroyer of World War II. The manufacturer, Buick, gave it the nickname "Hellcat" and it was the fastest tracked armoured fighting vehicle during the war with a top speed up to 60 mph.

Hellcat crews took advantage of the vehicle's speed to avoid hits to its thin armour. Many German Panther and Tiger tanks were destroyed because they could not turn their turrets fast enough to return fire.

The main disadvantages of the M18 was its very light armour, and the inconsistent performance of its 76 mm gun against the frontal armour of later German designs such as the Tiger and Panther. The open-topped turret (a characteristic which it shared with the M10) left the crew exposed to snipers, grenades, and shell fragments. The doctrinal priority of high speed at the cost of armour protection thus led to an unbalanced design. The problem of the main gun performance was remedied with High Velocity Armour Piercing (HVAP) ammunition late in the war, which allowed the 76 mm gun to achieve greater frontal armour penetration, but this was never available in quantity.

After World War II, many M18s were given to other countries. These were rebuilt and refurbished by Brown & Root in northern Italy in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and bear data plates that indicate those rebuilds. One of the users was Yugoslavia, which kept them in reserve until the early 1990s. A number of these vehicles were later used by the Military of Serbian Krajina and Army of Republika Srpska during the Yugoslav wars. One example was used on an armoured train named the "Krajina Express" (Krajina Ekspres).

The Military of the Republic of China also operated several M18s until their chassis and hulls were worn out, at which point the turrets were salvaged and installed onto surplus hulls of M42 Duster anti-aircraft vehicles to produce Type 64 light tanks.

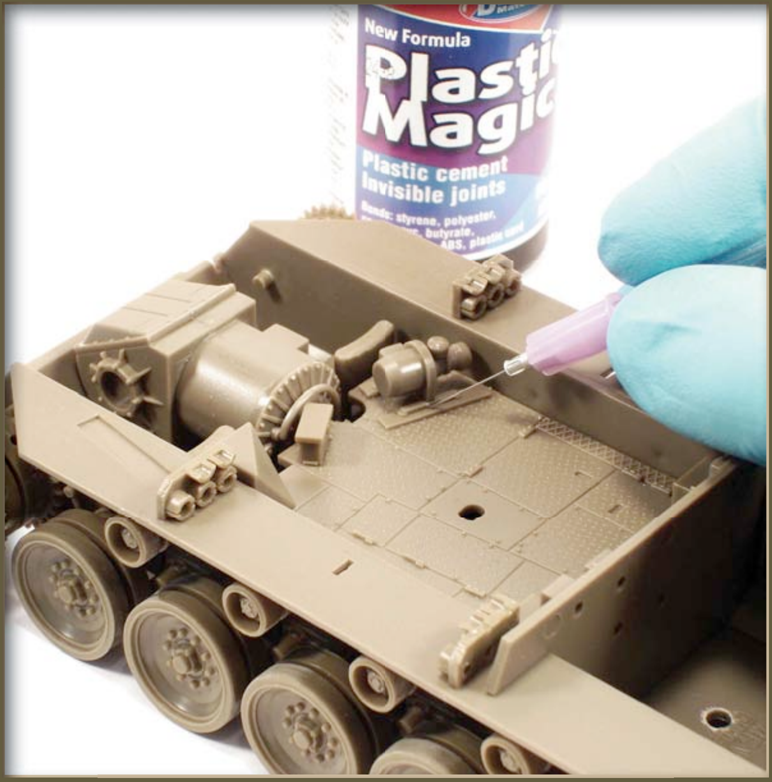
THE M18 FROM AFV CLUB (ITEM NO. AF35015)

The M18 Hellcat from AFV Club is a nice kit and all that we need to make a great replica is inside the box. The kit is made in their ultra-fine dark green coloured plastic with very subtle surface detail. The fit is okay, not being top class, but the overall model very accurate.

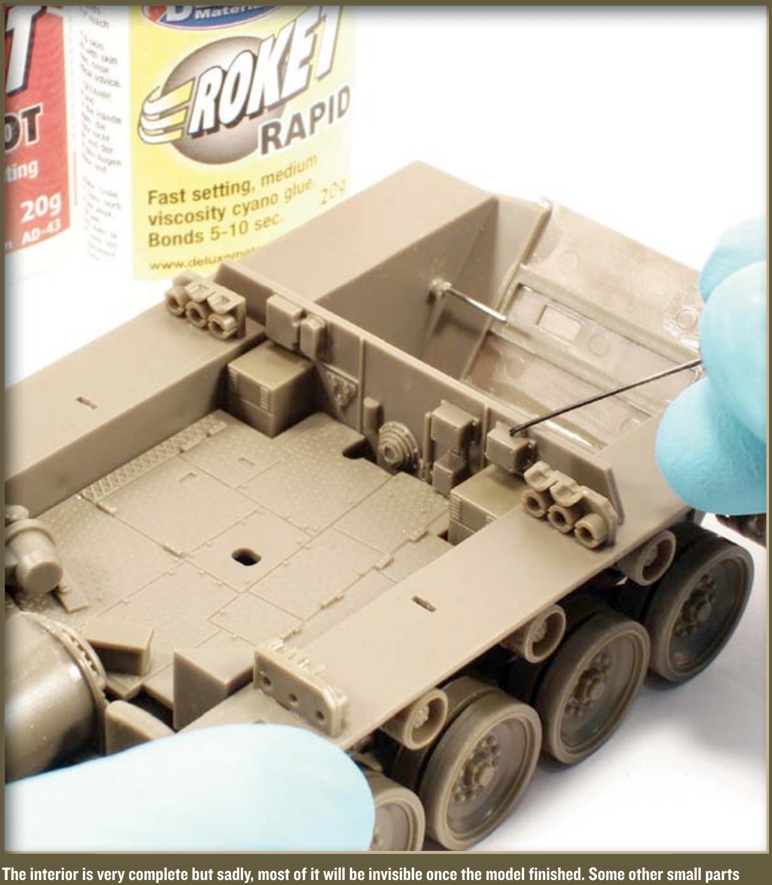
Inside the box we are also presented with crisply printed decals for 7 different versions, vinyl tracks and a metal gun barrel.

The box art is not very appealing, but even so has a nice design that can be transformed into a poster for our working area.

CONSTRUCTION



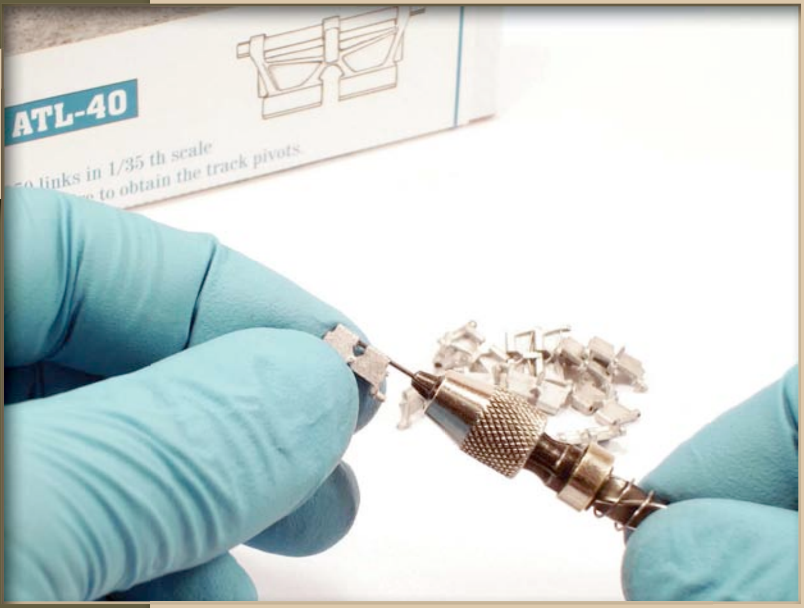
Construction is very straightforward and with no nasty surprises. All the major assemblies and small details were glued with the help of Deluxe Materials Plastic Magic Glue. For the best results I use their Pin Magic applicator, which allows fine control, because the Plastic Magic Glue is ultra-thin. Being so thin, it is ideal to work as capillarity.



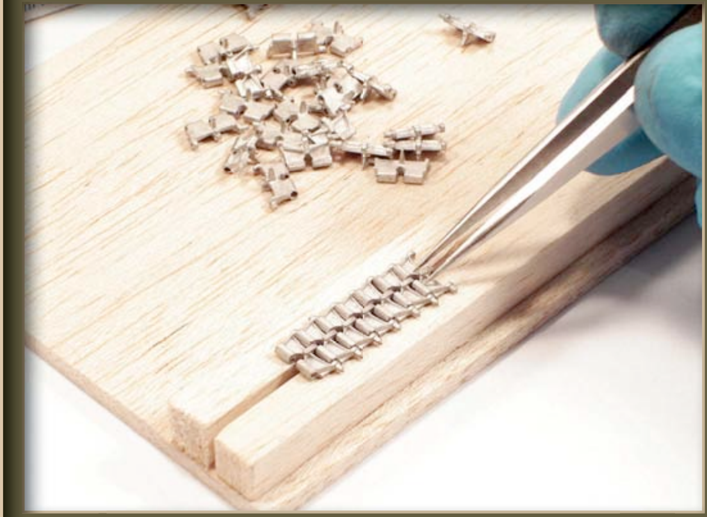
The interior is very complete but sadly, most of it will be invisible once the model finished. Some other small parts were glued with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot and Rocket Rapid Glue solutions.

TRACKS

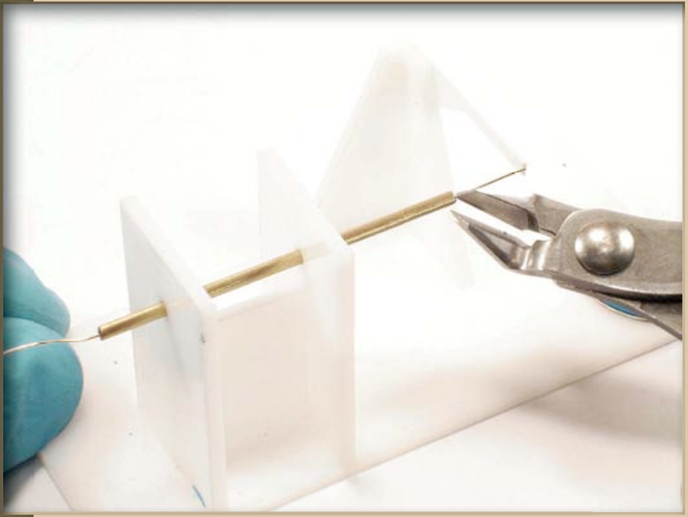
Friulmodel tracks - are they really necessary? In my opinion, yes! The vinyl tracks provided by AFV CLUB are accurate and well detailed but they are no match for the Friulmodel tracks. With Friulmodel tracks we can get the natural and ultra-realistic sag. Why? Because we they are aeffected by something called gravity. All we have to do is place the assembled metal tracks on the model and let gravity do the rest. The final result is lovely and realistic.


ATL-40
..links in 1/35 th scale
... to obtain the track pivots

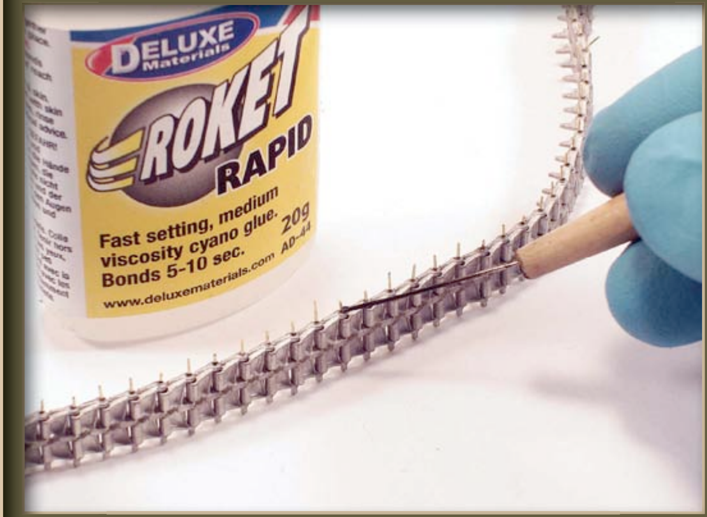
Assembling the Friulmodel tracks is a time consuming process. All the links must be individually prepared for the assembling. Personally I like to drill all the holes here the metal pin will be introduced.



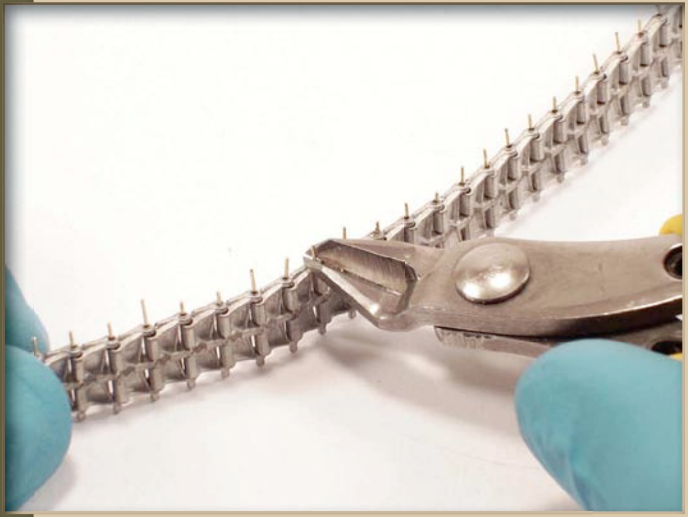
Links are assembled in small segments and the metal pins are introduced in the right spots (like real life 1:1 tracks).



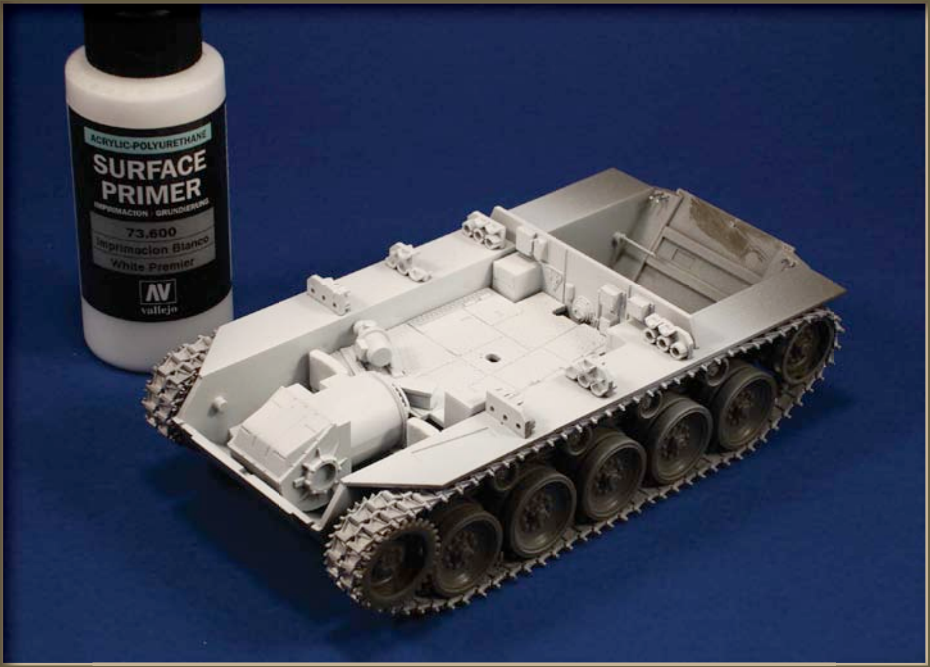
With the help of a cutter, all we have to do is cut the metal pins.


DELUXE Materials
ROKET RAPID
Fast setting, medium viscosity cyano glue.
Bonds 5-10 sec.
20g
AD-44
www.deluxematerials.com

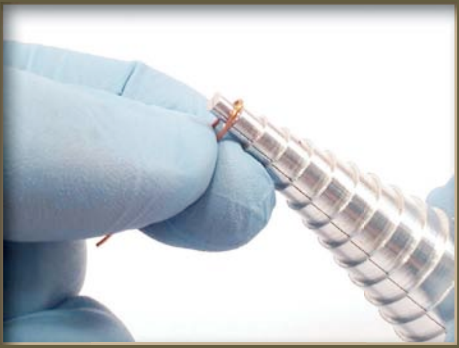
Once all the segments connected, we apply small drops of glue to keep everything in place. In this case I used the Deluxe Materials Rocket Rapid Glue. Being thin and super strong glue, is ideal to use as capillarity and reach the most difficult spots.



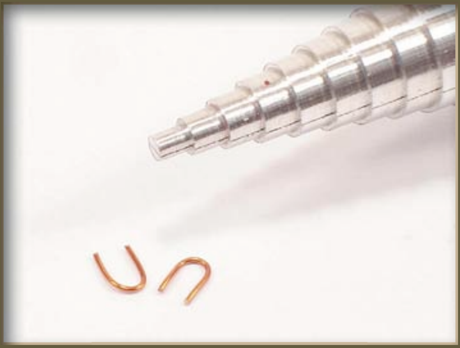
Once the glue has set, the excess wire is cut off.


ACRYLIC-POLYURETHANE
SURFACE PRIMER
IMPRIMACION · GRUNDIERUNG
73.600
Imprimacion Blanco
White Premier
AV
vallejo

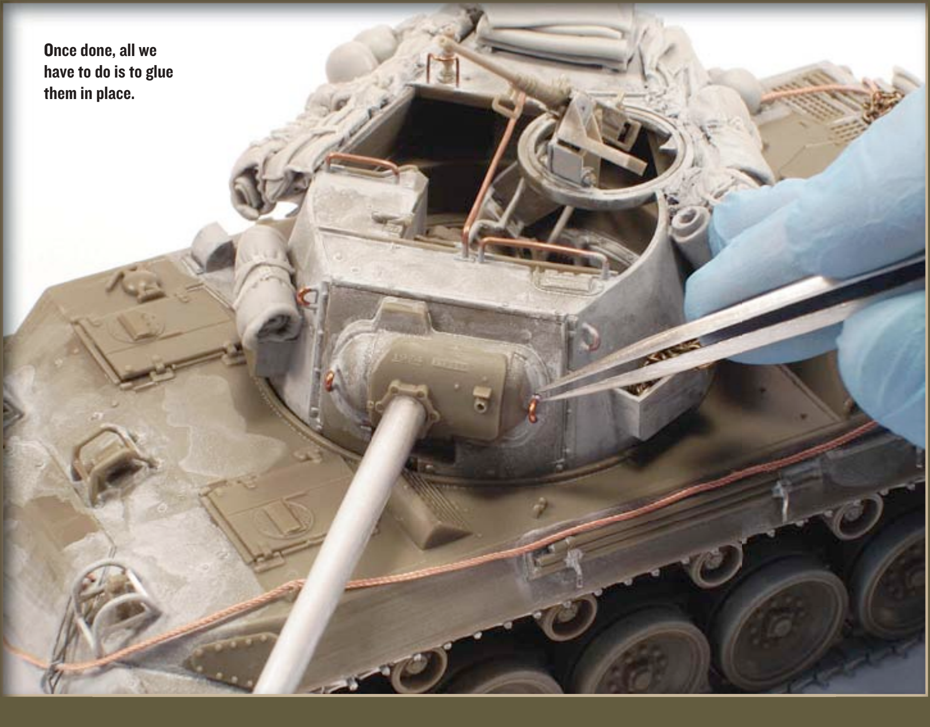
We can always add or replace some of the smaller plastic parts. Usually I replace all the hooks and hangers by new ones in metal.



To get the best shapes and results I usually use tools from Small Shop Tools.



We can make hundreds of these small parts with the same shape and size.



Once done, all we have to do is to glue them in place.

HAND PICKED FOR 2016

Revell
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NEW TOOL
LEVEL 3

04884
Embraer 195 Air Dolomiti, 1:144

NEW TOOL
LEVEL 3

04920
Avro Shackleton Mk.2 AEW, 1:72

NEW TOOL
LEVEL 3

04921
BAe Hawk T1 Red Arrows, 1:72

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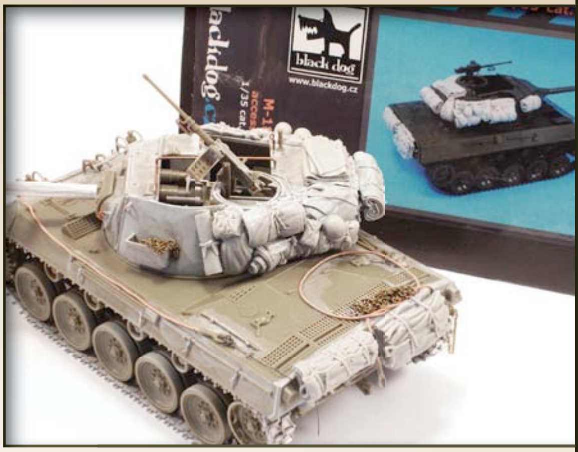
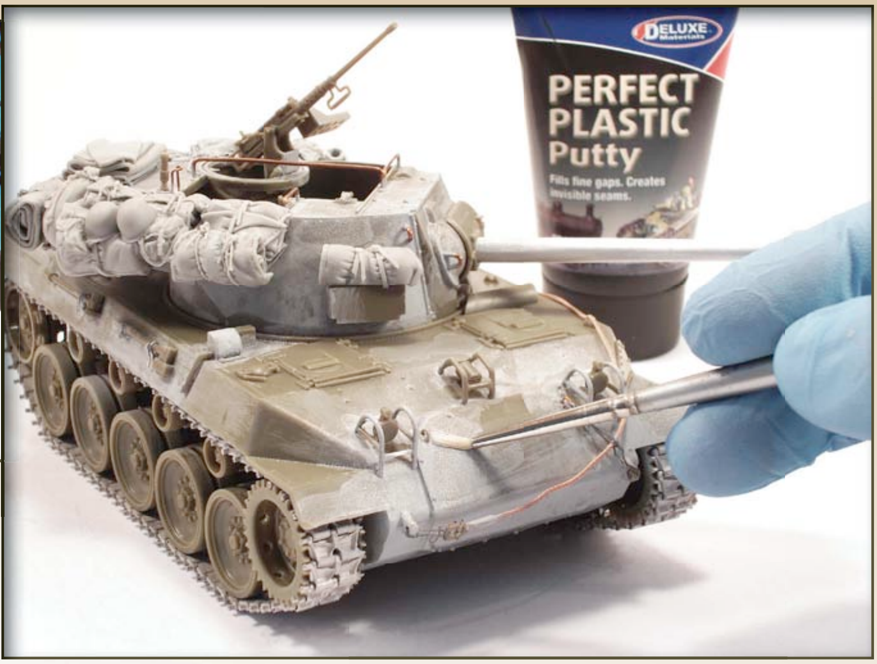
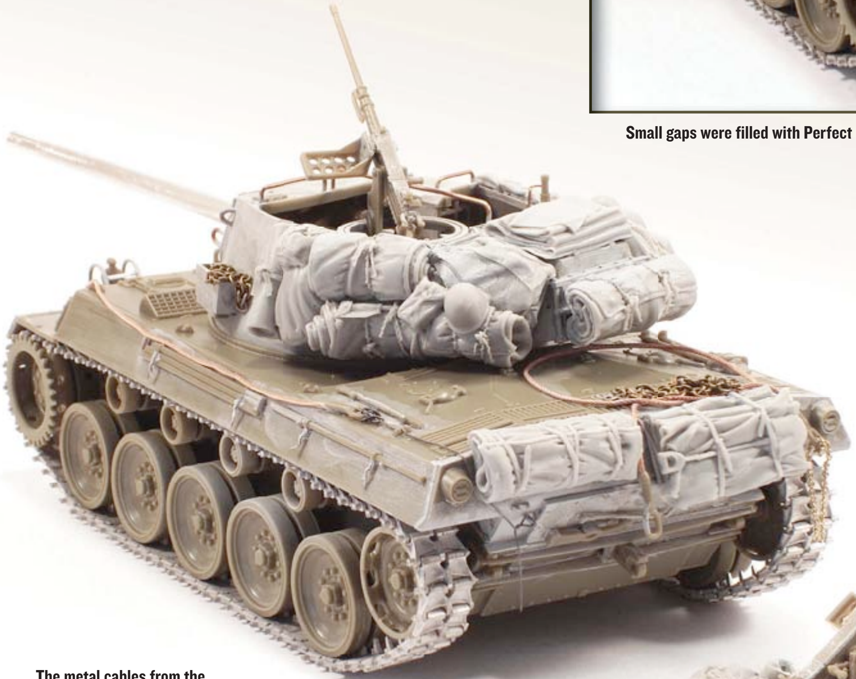

blackdog
black dog
www.blackdog.cz
1/35

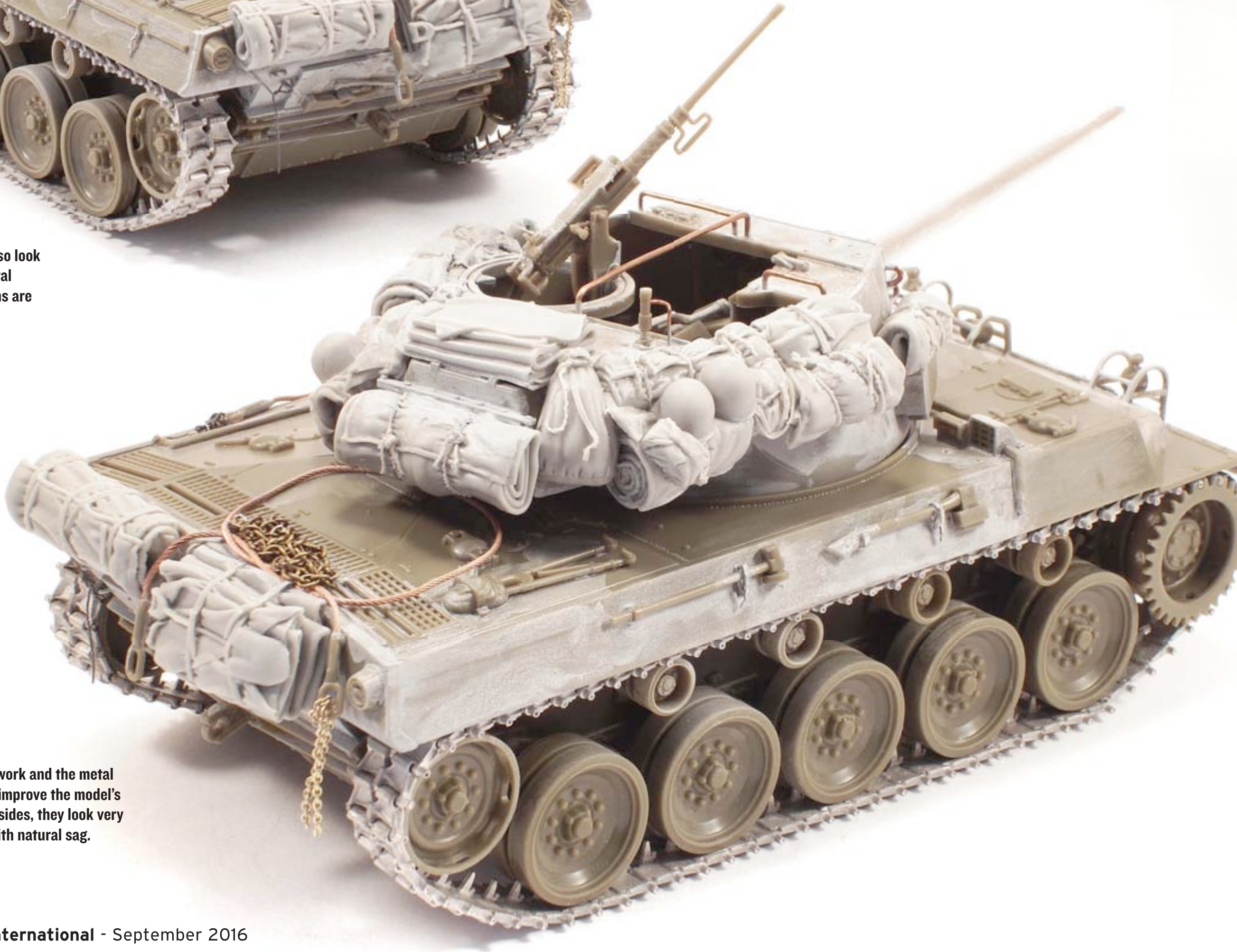
Black Dog's Item No. T3502 intended for the MI8 is a lovely set and like that I decided to use it in my model. The resin is flawless and the detail is ultra fine. This set adds an extra touch of realism to the model.


DELUXE Materials
PERFECT PLASTIC Putty
Fills fine gaps. Creates invisible seams.

Small gaps were filled with Perfect Plastic Putty from Deluxe Materials wheel thinned in water.



The metal cables from the Portuguese company RMG also look very authentic and with natural curves. The small metal chains are from Royal Model.

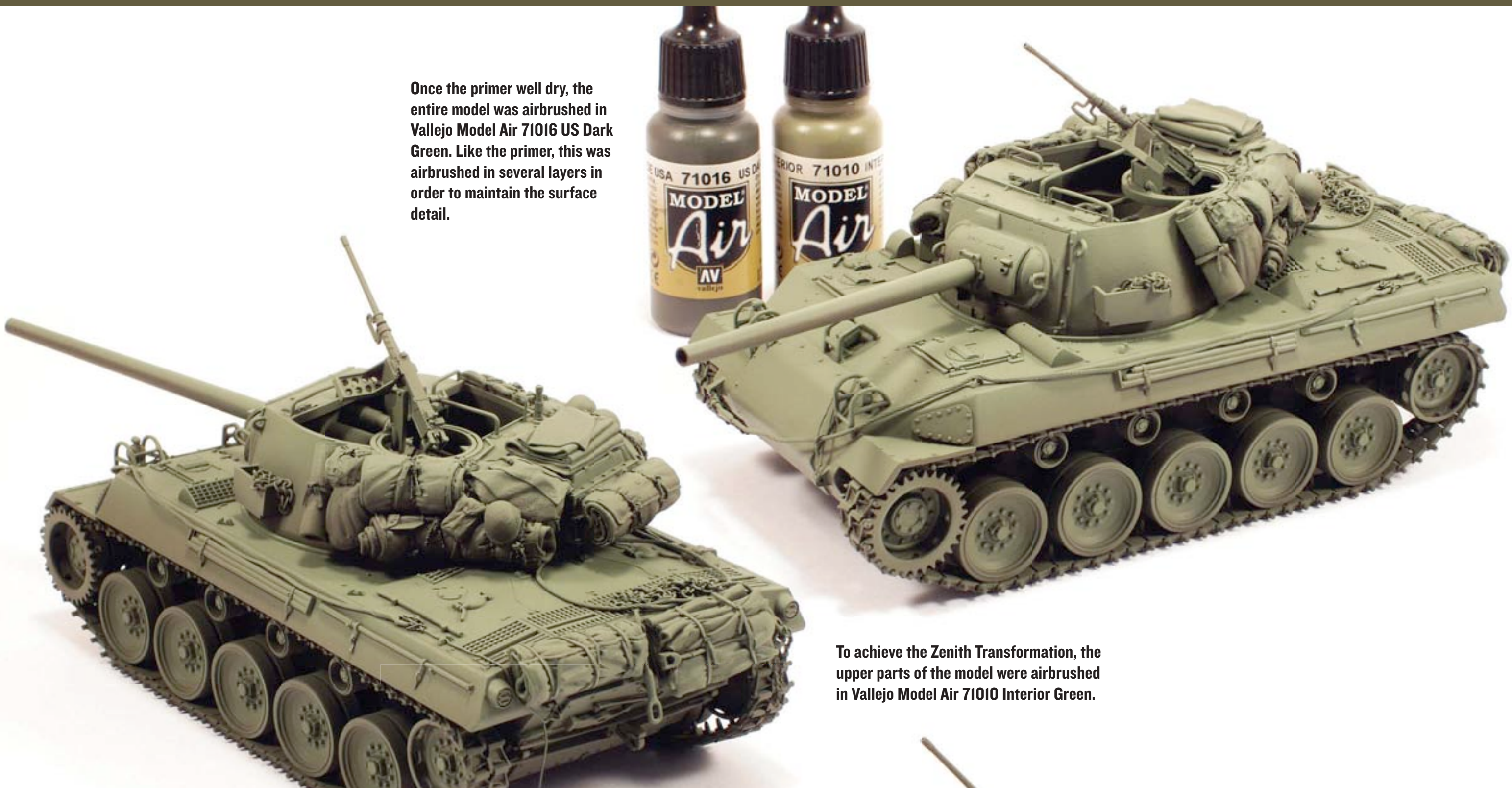


All the extra work and the metal tracks really improve the model's final look. Besides, they look very convincing with natural sag.

PAINTING

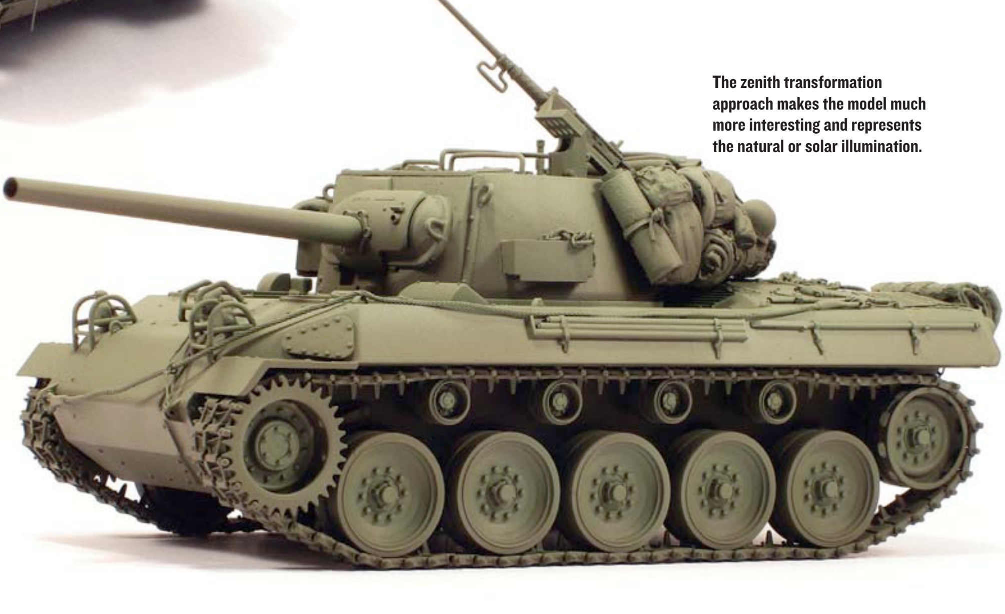
The entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo Surface Primer 73608 US Olive Green. Vallejo primers dry very fast and turn the surface very smooth, ideal for airbrushing.

They must be airbrushed in several layers in order to keep the surface detail.



Once the primer well dry, the entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71016 US Dark Green. Like the primer, this was airbrushed in several layers in order to maintain the surface detail.

To achieve the Zenith Transformation, the upper parts of the model were airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71010 Interior Green.



The zenith transformation approach makes the model much more interesting and represents the natural or solar illumination.

The small details were painted in Vallejo Model Color colors.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING

The weathering started by applying several layers of Mig Productions oils well thinned in Mig Productions Odourless Turpentine.

Besides several layers, we also should use several oil colours in order to get a more accurate and visually interesting finish.

Several spots were treated with Mig Productions Standard Rust Effects and Light Rust Effects. Once again, these were thinned using Mig Productions Thinner for Washes.

Mig Productions' Wet Effects and Damp Earth Mixture were also applied. Mig Productions catalogue is huge and ideal for all kind of weathering and detail work.

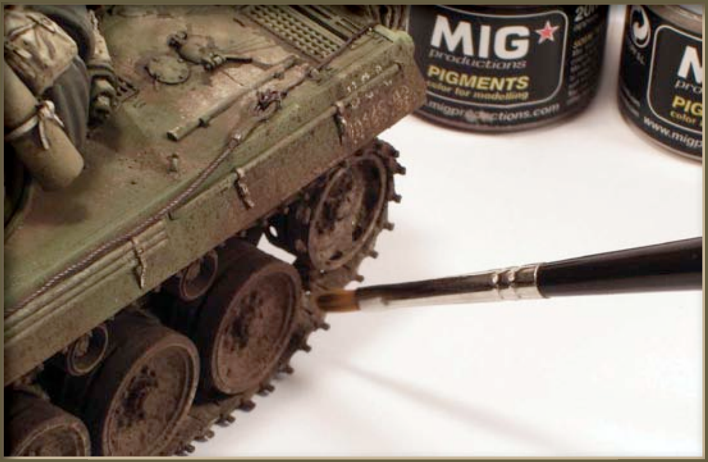
Small details were picked out in Mig Productions' Dark Wash applied mostly in the recessed areas and around small details. If necessary, Mig Productions wash solutions can be thinned in Mig Productions Thinner for Washes.

The metal chains and iron cable were also treated in Mig Productions Standard Rust Effects and Light Rust Effects.

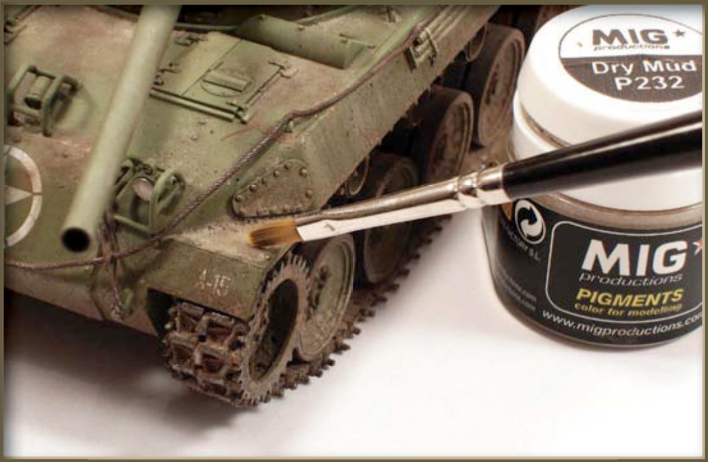
Mig Productions' Neutral Wash is ideal to unite some of the brush paint job and was used all over the Black Dog accessories.

Mig Productions' Rainmarks were applied mostly in the vertical panels, in order to represent the exposure to the atmospheric elements.

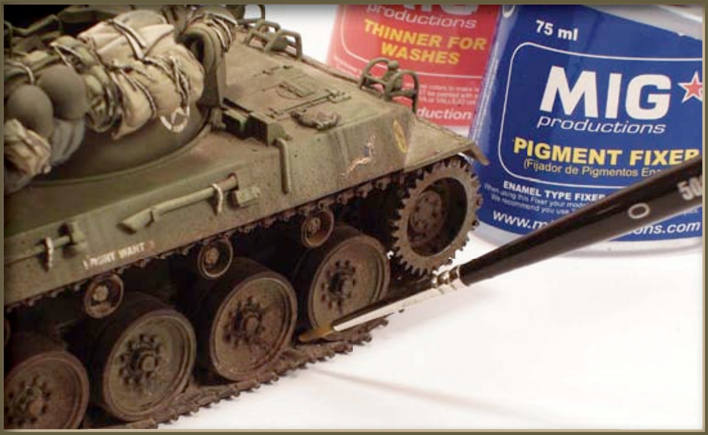
Heavily thinned layers of Earth Wash and Mud Splash from Mig Productions were widely used in the front and back of the model.


MIG
productions
PIGMENTS
color for modelling
www.migproductions.com

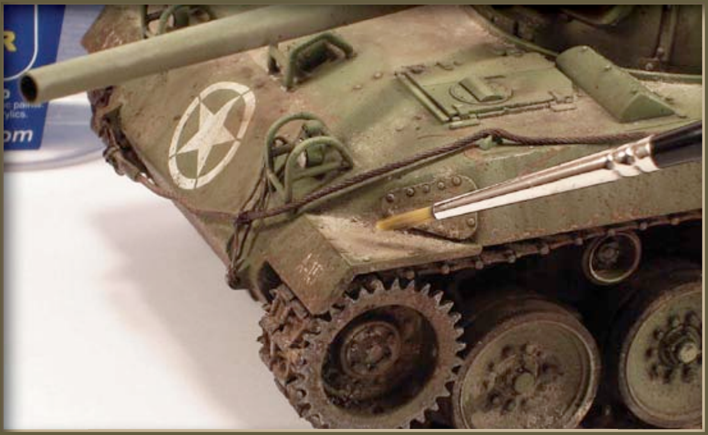
The dusty look was achieved in Mig Productions' pigments. Several colours must be used in order to get a more realistic look.


MIG
productions
Dry Mud
P232
MIG
productions
PIGMENTS
color for modelling
www.migproductions.com
A-15

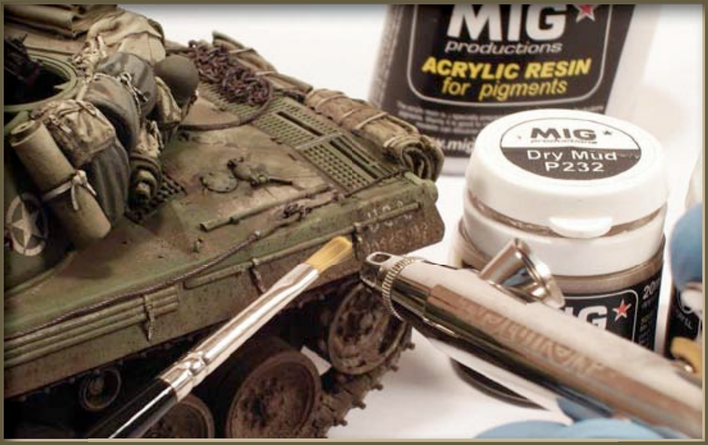
The colours have to be realistic and placed in the right spots. Also, we must not overdo this process; otherwise our model will look inaccurate and artificial.


THINNER FOR WASHES
75 ml
MIG
productions
PIGMENT FIXER
(Fijador de Pigmentos
ENAMEL TYPE FIXER

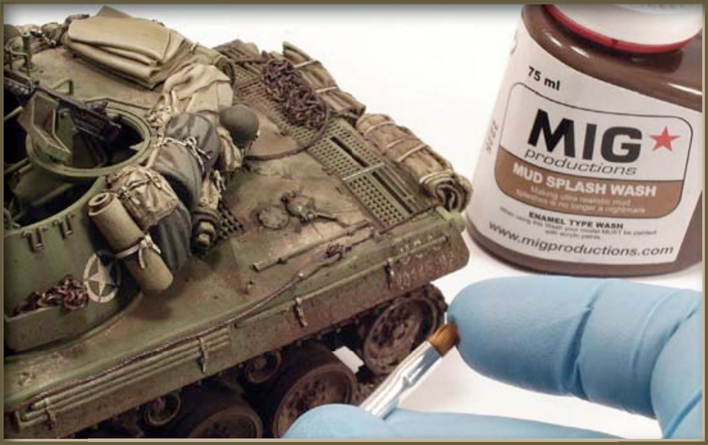
The pigments were fixed in place with the help of Mig Productions' Pigment Fixer. All we have to do is apply several drops by brush and leave it to dry without touching it.



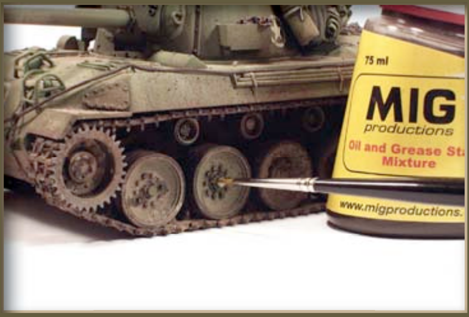
During this process the model will turn very dark and it seems that the pigments disappear, but once the fixer and thinner evaporates the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.


MIG
productions
ACRYLIC RESIN
for pigments
MIG
Dry Mud
P232

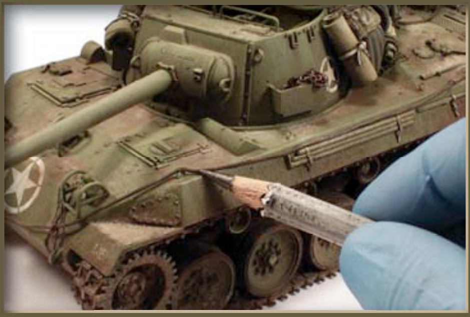
Projected mud can be achieved with the help of an airbrush and several Mig Productions pigments mixed in acrylic resin from the same company.


75 ml
MIG
productions
MUD SPLASH WASH
ENAMEL TYPE WASH
www.migproductions.com

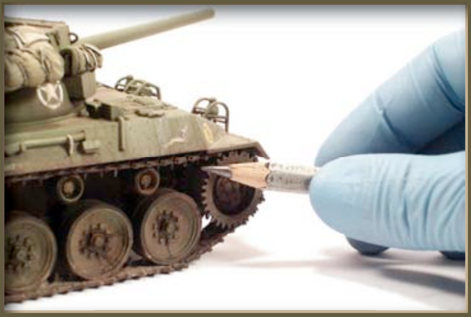
The job was finished with the help of a flat brush and some layers of Mig Productions Mud Splash Wash.


75 ml
MIG
productions
Oil and Grease St
Mixture
www.migproductions.

Mig Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture were applied in several spots. All those simple techniques combined really improve the model and make it look very realistic and accurate.



With the help of a soft graphite pencil some metal parts can easily be enhanced.

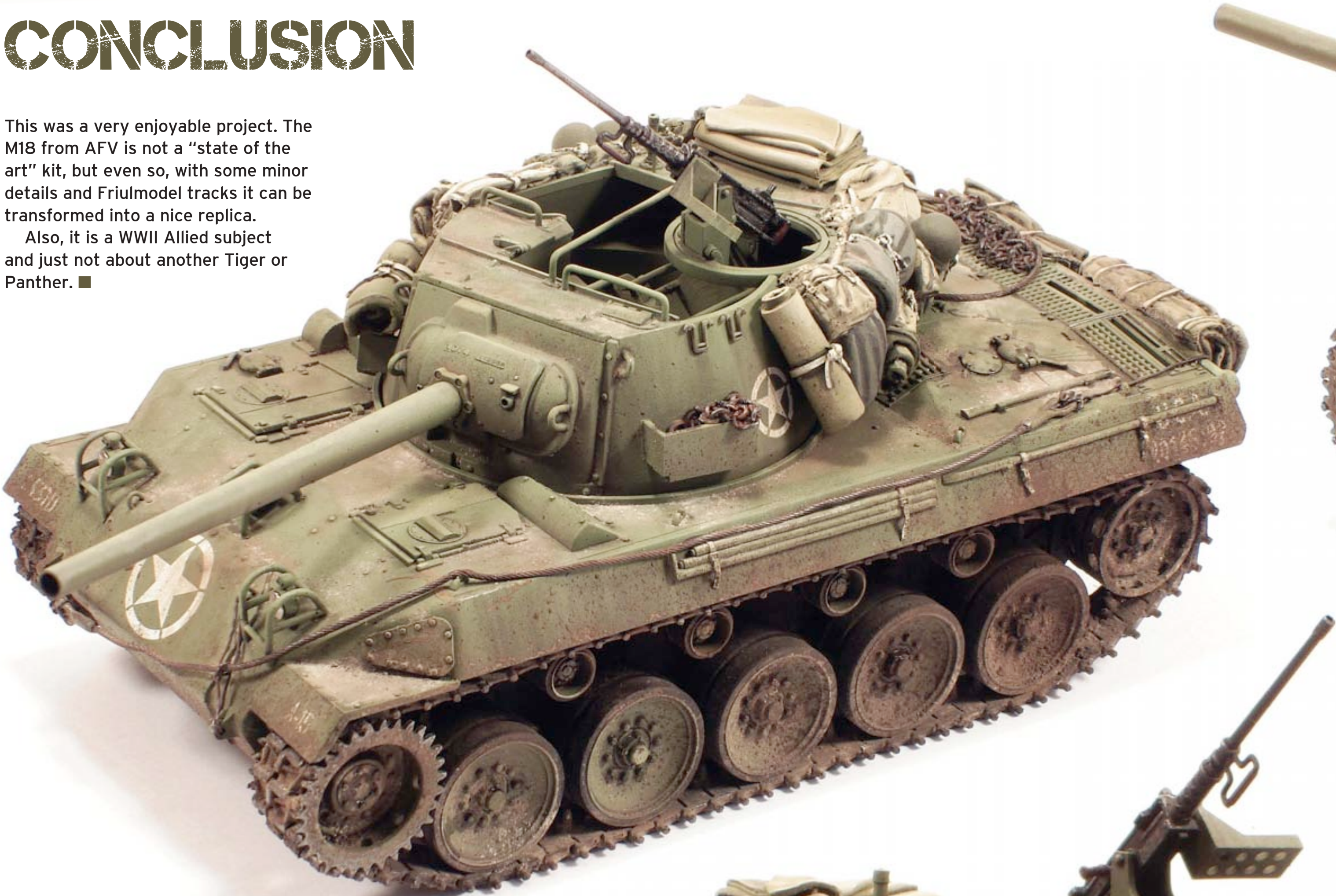


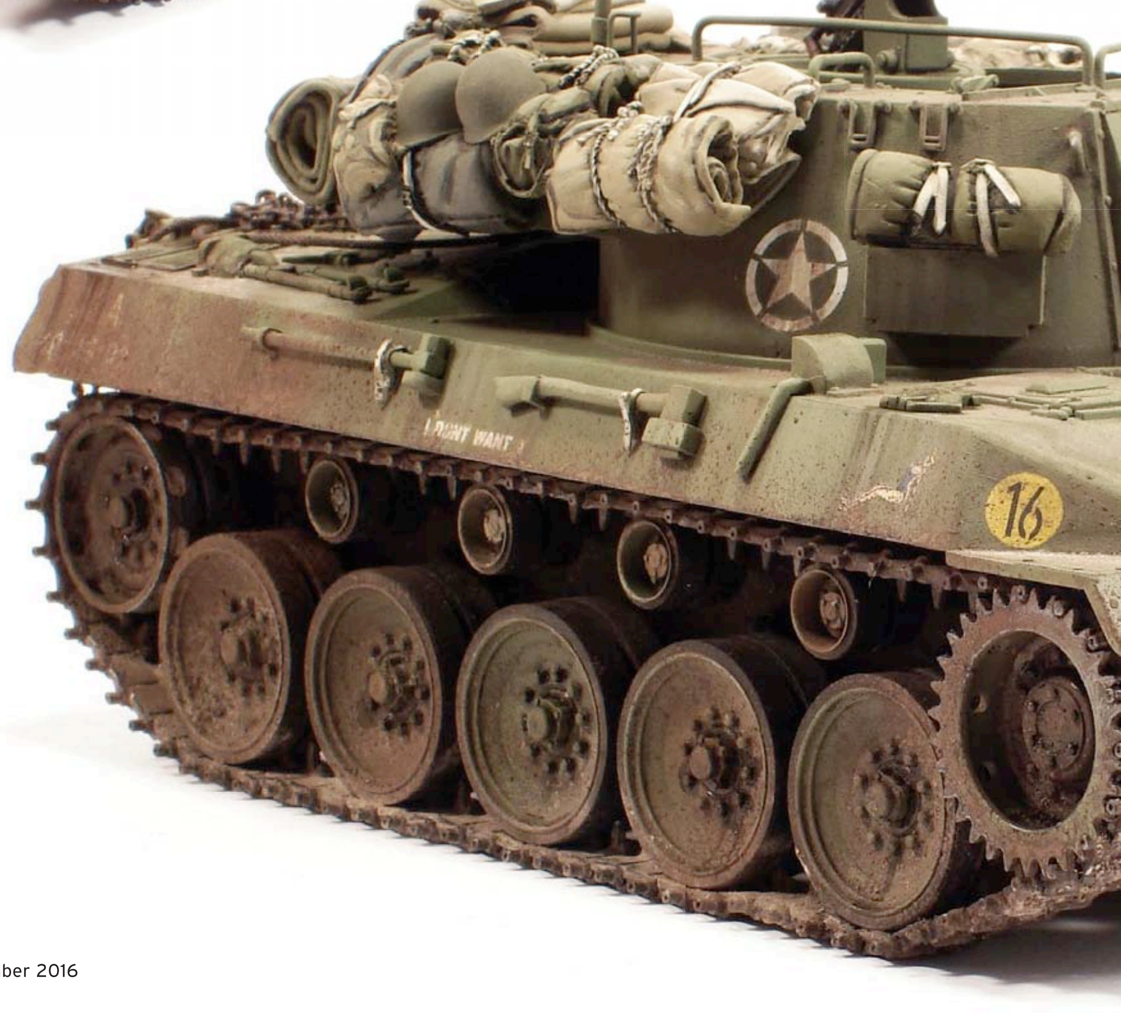
Spots like tracks, chains, machine gun can get an ultra metallic finish with this simple step.

CONCLUSION

This was a very enjoyable project. The M18 from AFV is not a "state of the art" kit, but even so, with some minor details and Friulmodel tracks it can be transformed into a nice replica.

Also, it is a WWII Allied subject and just not about another Tiger or Panther. ■





Modelspec

AFV Club 1:35 M18 Hellcat Tank Destroyer
Kit No. 35015

Accessories Used:

1:35 Black Dog, M18 Accessories Set, Item T35026
1:35 Friulmodel, M18 Hellcat ATL-40
Royal Model metal chains (several sizes and references)
Metal cables from RMG Resin Models

Paints and Finishing Products:

Deluxe Materials glue solutions
Injected plastic
Resin parts
Plastic card
Metal parts
Vallejo primers and acrylics
MIG Productions pigments, oils, washes, filters and thinners
Graphite soft pencil

References used:

Several Internet sites and forums

✓ Overall great detail and accuracy.

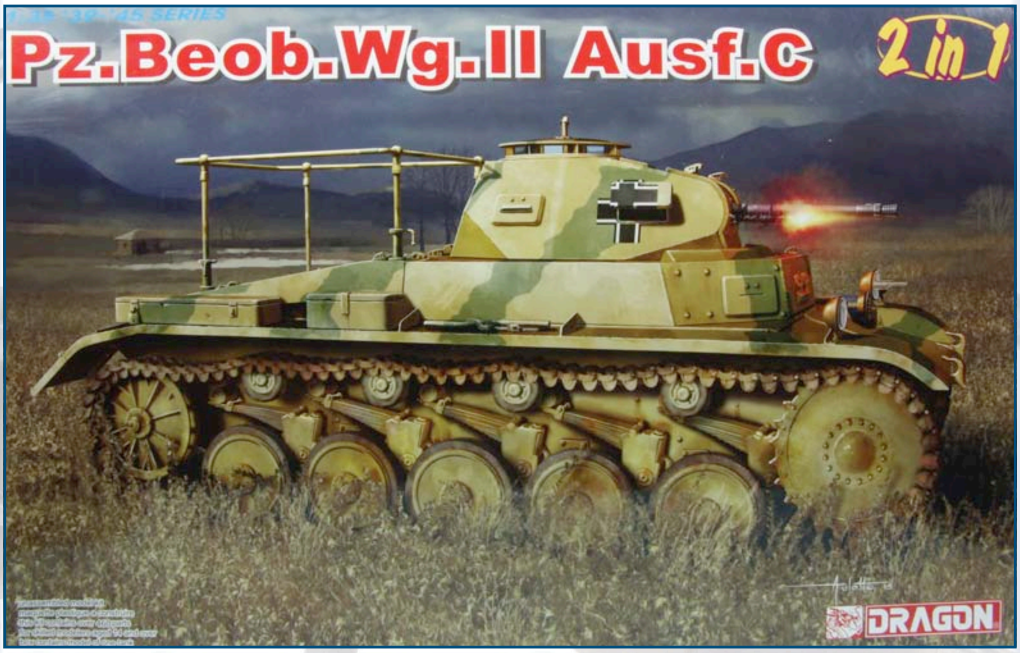
✗ Some minor fit problems.

Available from

AFV Club kits are available from good hobby shops worldwide and online.

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

> "The M18 Hellcat from AFV Club is a nice kit and all that we need to make a great replica is inside the box..."



OBSERVATION PANZER

Andy King sifts through the many parts in Dragon's newest Panzer II boxing, the 1:35 scale Pz. Beob.Wg.II Ausf. C.

The Panzer II has been kitted before by Dragon in various forms and this time it depicts a Beobachtungswagen or Observation vehicle that was used for artillery spotting. This one is different from the last couple of Dragon releases that I have reviewed recently as this particular vehicle actually existed, although how many were built I'm not entirely sure as information is sketchy.

Dragon kits usually come with a LOT of parts from different kits and this one is no exception, with sprues from their Panzer II F, Marder and Bison making an appearance. In fact the two smaller sprues (C) from the Bison are not even listed on the parts inventory at the start of the instructions (along with sprues R, B, P and three marked S). Two frets of etched metal are included plus two decal sheets and again only one of each is listed. You also get two turrets but it's the one with the round hole in the top that applies to this model.

Along with the parts marked as 'not-for-use', the actual parts count is substantially reduced and although they will fill your spares box, it's entirely possible that there are enough bits in here to make other versions of the Panzer II. If you can find the instructions online from other Dragon Panzer II kits it will be possible to cross reference the parts available.

Anyway, onto the rest of the kit and it's good to see that the 'Magic' individual track links are supplied, once again colour coded in light and dark grey depending on which side they are fitted.

Dragon has got well away from supplying metal barrels nowadays but the kit one is pretty good and just requires the holes in the flash suppressor opening up with a fine drill (and I mean fine).

Ironically for such a small tank, the kit has a very well detailed interior that includes a transmission, drivers position turret and radio operators position. This is great but even with all the hatches open it will be hard to see it all.

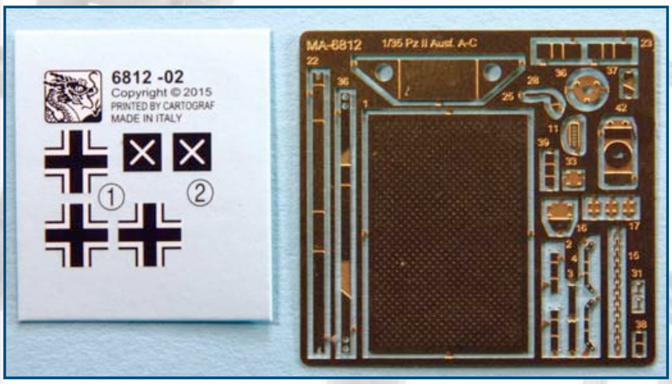
To be nitpicky I would have liked to have seen the tread pattern on the fenders replicated underneath that Dragon did so well on their Panzer IIIs and IVs. For the rear mounted aerial antenna you have the option to model it raised or the back end lowered.

The colour scheme options are a bit of a cop out as there are only two and both are from unidentified units. Colours for the darker scheme are grey and black (which sounds iffy) but for the other one your guess is as good as mine as although the base colour is listed as H402 Green Brown (which also sounds iffy) the other colour is not listed at all! Better still just go with the box art of green over a base of dark yellow.

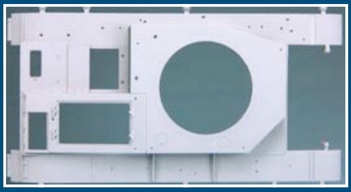
Dragon does Panzers really well and this kit looks to be no exception. The only thing you need to do before starting this is to check exactly what parts are required as the sheer amount can be confusing especially with the sprues that are not listed.

The bonus however, as stated above, is that amongst those parts there should be enough to build another version that there is plenty of information about rather than the one depicted in this kit. ■

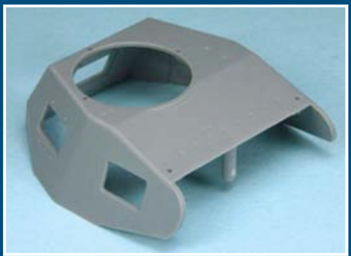
Thanks to the Hobby Company Limited for the review sample
www.hobbyco.net



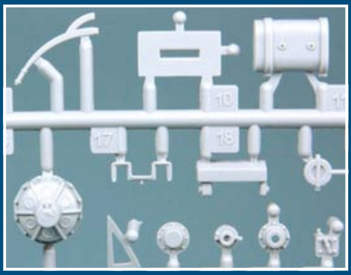
Kit decals and photo-etch.



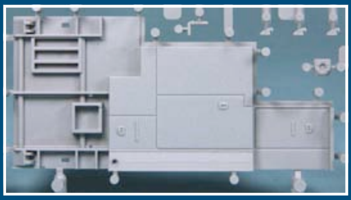
The one piece upper hull.



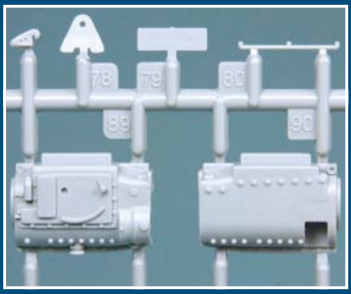
The turret shell.



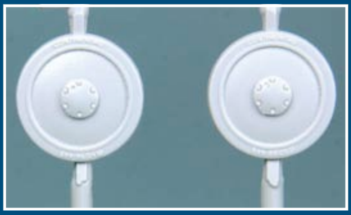
Large and small parts are crisply moulded.



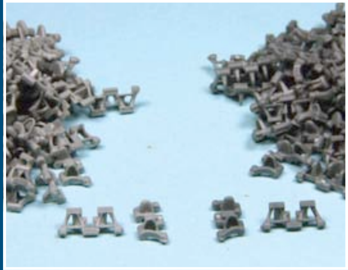
Interior floor with non-slip texture.



Transmission.



Lovely weld bead and lettering on the road wheels ("Continentau" to bypass Trade Mark issues!)



Individual Magic Track links – hooray!

NEW in the 'HOW TO BUILD...' series

HOW TO BUILD...
REVISED EDITION
THE STEEL WHEELED
TIGER I
Angus Creighton
TAMIYA
DRAGON
INCLUDING
Building the basic model
Weathering explained
Techniques to achieve realistic zimmerit
Concise details of the production variations
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Two detailed versions of the Sturmtiger
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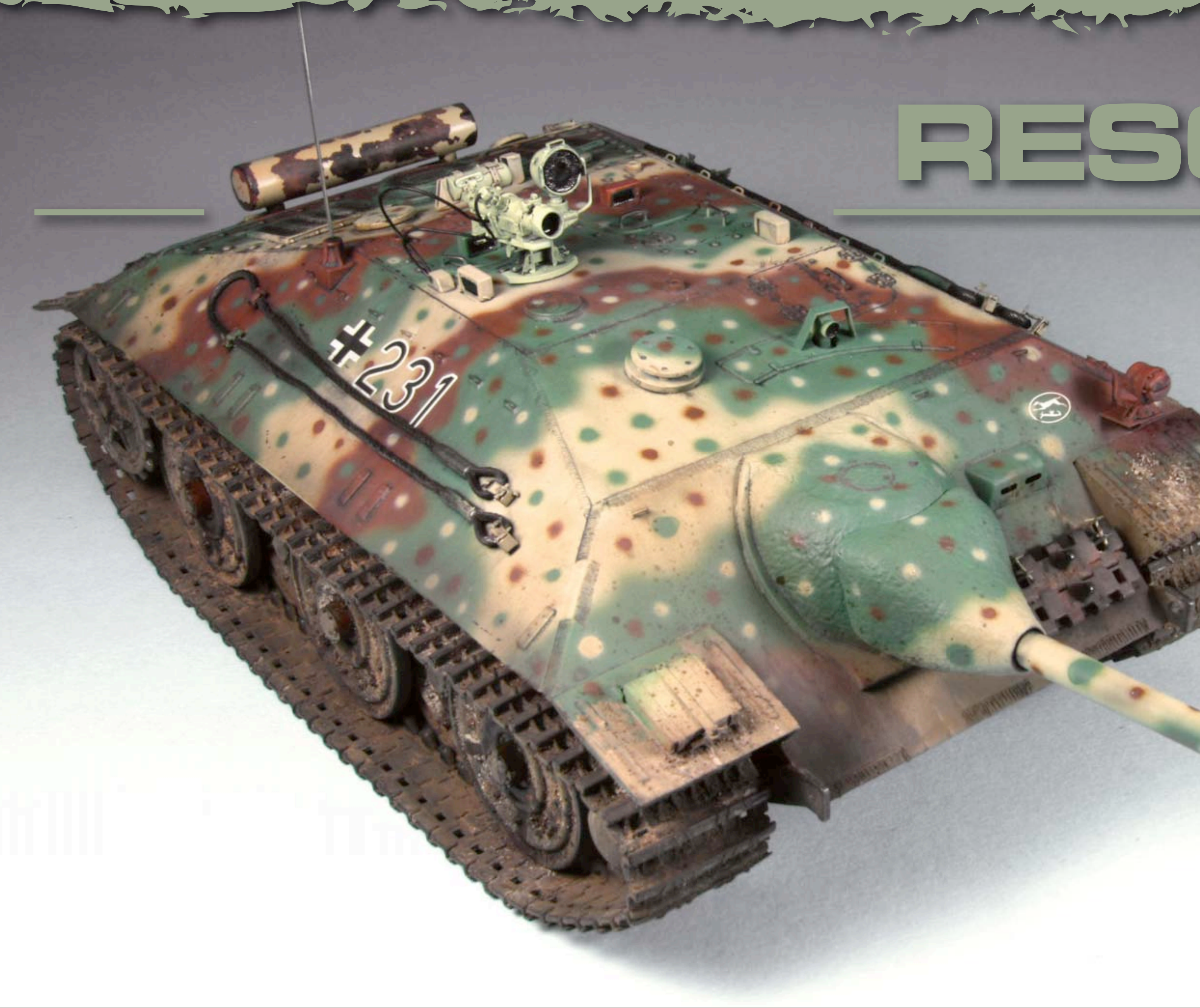


The 'Entwicklung' or 'E-series' were proposals for standardising and simplifying German tank design and attempt to reverse the complications and poor production rates of the then current crop of tanks. There were to be six weight classes in total with the E-5 the lightest and the E-100 as the heaviest, the E-25 was to be a direct replacement for all Panzer III/IV variants.

As with all the 'paper panzers', they were too little and too late as the war finished before any of the designs (except for one E-100 chassis) left the drawing boards. If they ever did get into production in large numbers it might have been a different story on the WWII battlefield but that's one for others to debate.

CONSTRUCTION

A few years ago a modelling buddy of mine gave me a Trumpeter 1:35 E-25 'Paper Panzer' that he had started but got bored with very soon after. He was going to throw it out but I just HAD to give the poor thing a good home and it ended up in my stash, where it lurked until very recently. I was actually looking for something else when I found the kit again so I opened the box and had a look at what would be involved to bring it back from the dead.

Everything was still in the box (except for the etch engine deck grills), the hull roof glued on was the option with the small turret, the barrel had had a chunk taken out of it at some point and the vinyl tracks had been stapled as I recall my buddy had terrible trouble getting them to stick together. Fortunately Trumpeter also supplied individual track links in the kit.

Anyhow, fancying something different and free from any historical accuracy in between the lengthy and very involved build of a 1:35 Miniman Factory SS-23, I ordered a Voyager photo-etched set and a new barrel from RB Models and when they arrived I set to work.

The first job was to remove the roof as I felt the small turret looked silly (yes I know it's a what-if, but…) and the idlers and drive sprockets were taken off and new axles made as I wanted to build the running gear as sub-assemblies. The hull was cleaned up and gaps filled in either with filler or plastic rod to simulate weld beads and .030" (0.76mm) styrene sheet was added to the bottom front hull as the glacis plate had an odd overhang to it, also the sink marks around the bottom edges of the superstructure were filled and sanded. One thing I did do was add some reinforcement to the front and rear roof plates from the inside as it made for a more positive fit of the centre roof panel and prevented any sagging.

I removed the exhausts from the rear and cut the pipes off the blocks before gluing them to the larger exhaust as I wanted to make them removable for painting later, the pipes and blocks were then drilled and pins inserted into the pipes.

The rubber band tracks were thrown away and the individual links were cut off the sprues and cleaned up. For the left side 75 links were glued together in one

CUE ME!

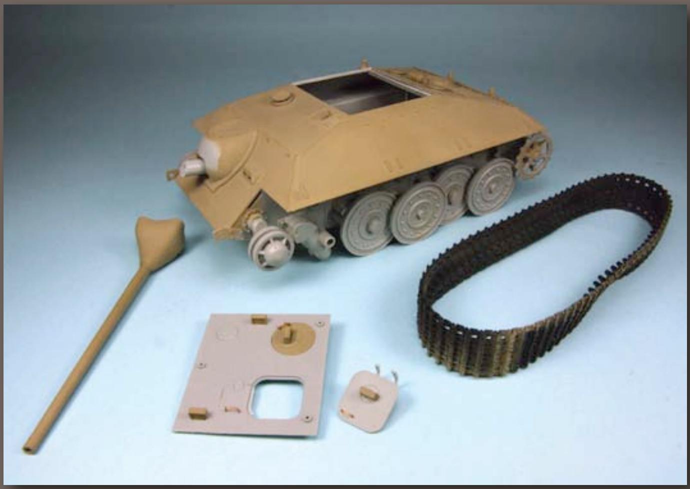
Andy King salvages Trumpeter's 1:35 scale E-25 from the Shelf of Doom.

long run and set aside for twenty minutes or so then the same was done for the right.

Concentrating on one side at a time the wheels, sprockets and idlers were placed (not glued) onto the axles and the track fitted around them, taking care to get the right amount of sag. The tracks were then glued to the sprockets, idlers and outer road wheels (as the inner wheels had been glued firmly to the axles) and left to set for a day or two, this way the tracks could be removed as sub-assemblies for painting later on.

When I looked again at the wheels the tracks were VERY close to the back of the hull. For some reason Trumpeter had the drive sprocket gear housing quite high up which gave the model the look of a hot-rod race car. As it was bothering me I very carefully prised off the housings either side and reset them lower down but of course that meant I had to redo the tracks which was a nuisance but the model looked a lot better for it. Anyway, it's something to watch out for if you build this particular model.

On-board equipment such as the tools and fire extinguisher were prised off the model and had photo-etched clamps and stuff added per the Voyager instructions. The main gun was removed from the mantlet and a hole drilled to accept the new RB metal barrel. The odd looking 'figure eight' lumps around the upper hull which were supposed to represent tie-down brackets were removed and new ones made using the Voyager supplied items ▶



The model before work began to rescue it.

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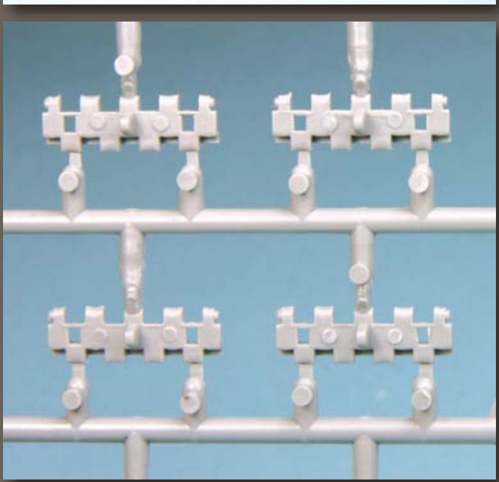
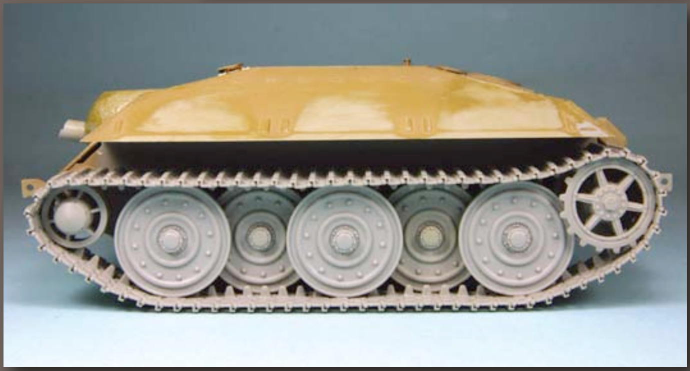
The Voyager set and RB barrel that were to be used.



The individual track links before clean up.



The tracks fitted to the wheels

and fine fuse wire. The holes in the etch were drilled through into the hull and the wire was glued in after being bent to shape, copper wire was also used to replace other kit supplied handles too.

The hull roof has a similar look to that of the Jagdpanzer IV series so to give some extra interest I added bolt-heads around the crew hatches from styrene using a hexagonal punch-and-die set. The front of the roof had a hole drilled into it for the periscope sight and the etch plate added, before the top was glued into place a support bracket was added underneath for the periscope to sit on.

The Voyager set also includes a resin infra-red sight for the roof so just for giggles I put it all together but instead of gluing it straight away I drilled a hole in the roof and sight and glued a locating pin into the base of the sight so that I could paint it separately. I figured that the cables for the sight had to go somewhere so I drilled another hole into the roof and made an armoured cover out of 2mm square styrene strip.

I actually got the tow cable clamps for the sides to work with a view to adding the cables after painting, but after the amount of messing about required to actually fit them I ended up gluing them into place as I would have ruined the paint work afterwards. The front of the hull got two clamps (as found on the rear end of Panther tanks) made from the etch frets and two track links were glued together and hung from them, remembering to drill out the track pin holes in the links.

Final etchy bits were added then the model was cleaned down and prepared for painting.

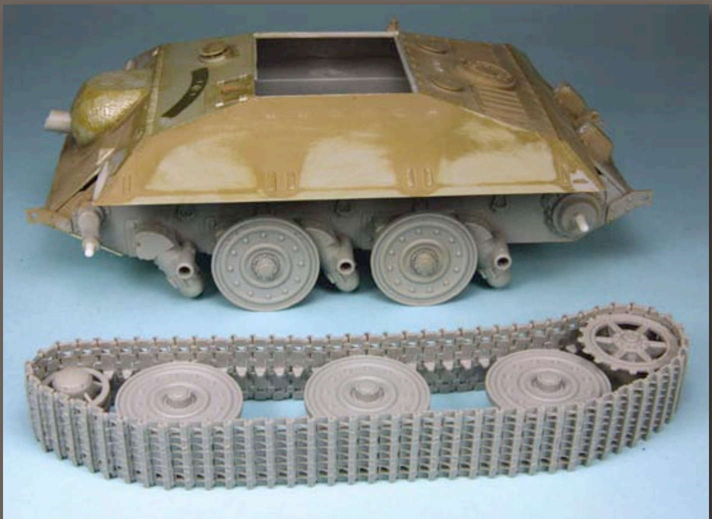
PAINTING

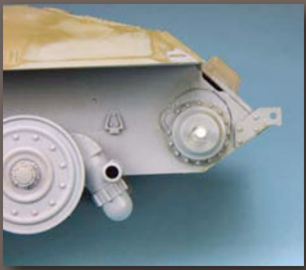
After priming the model with Games Workshop Chaos Black the model received a base coat of Tamiya XF-78 Wooden Deck Tan followed by a camouflage pattern applied freehand using colours from the Ammo range by Mig. These colours went on fairly well but for close-up work I just could not get them to spray properly so I reverted back to Tamiya using XF-65 Field Grey mixed with XF-71 Cockpit Green for the...erm...green bits and the red-brown was a mix of XF-79 Linoleum Deck Brown and the base colour. All the colours had X-22 Clear mixed in so as to make a fairly glossy surface for the application of washes as last time I tried them on a matt surface they left 'tide-marks' and looked awful.

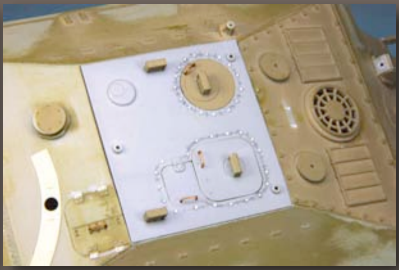
The camouflage then had random dots sprayed on using all three colours to imitate the Ambush scheme that was seen on late war German armour. Although it is a 'Paper Panzer', I still like to try and keep some sense of realism rather than have some very outlandish scheme.

I added tactical numbers and crosses from the spares box. The emblem for the 116th Panzer Division came from an Archer set of rub-down decals. I chose the 116th as this unit had previously used Jagdpanzers so I assumed they would have been replaced with the E-25 if the war had ever dragged on.

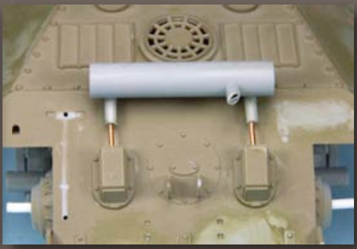
When applying the waterslide decals I brushed on Johnsons Kleer first, then placed the decals into position. This way it would avoid any silvering when the final coat of matt varnish was sprayed on. The rub-down unit badge also had Kleer brushed on top to seal it in.

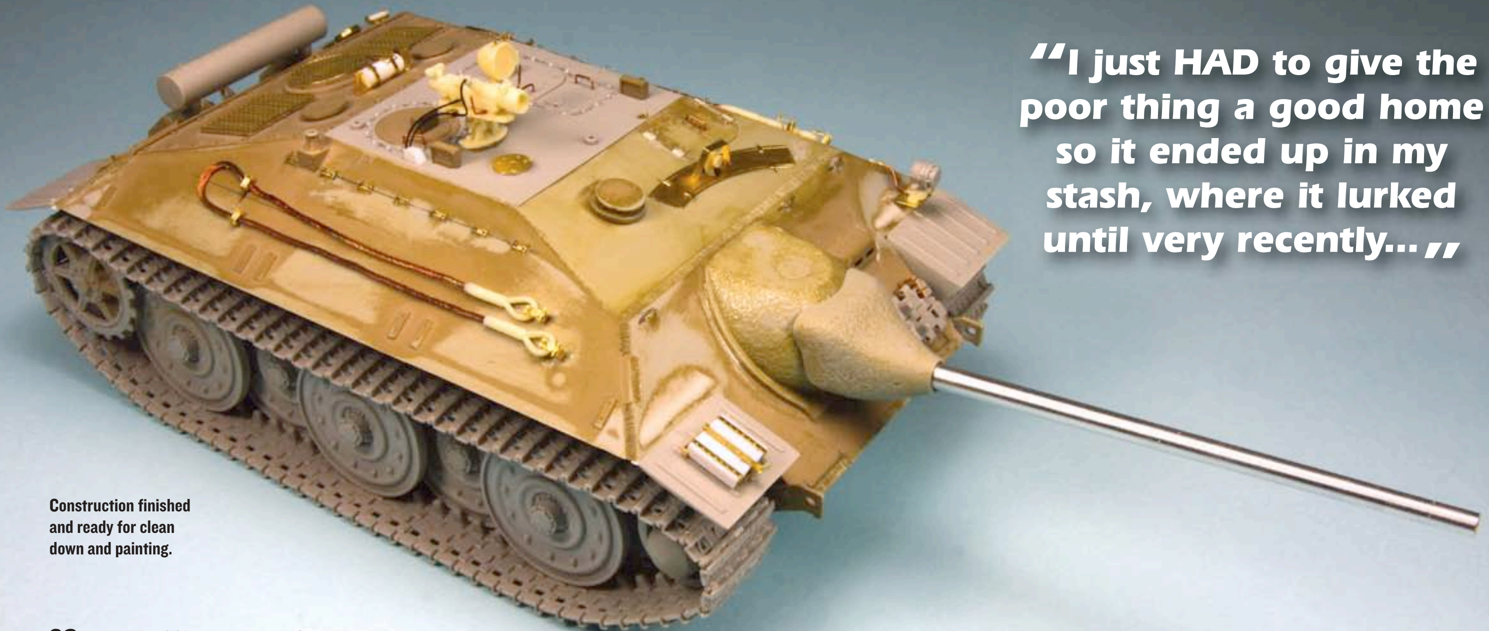

When fully set, the tracks were removed as sub-assemblies.


The transmission housing. The black line above shows just how far it needs to be lowered.

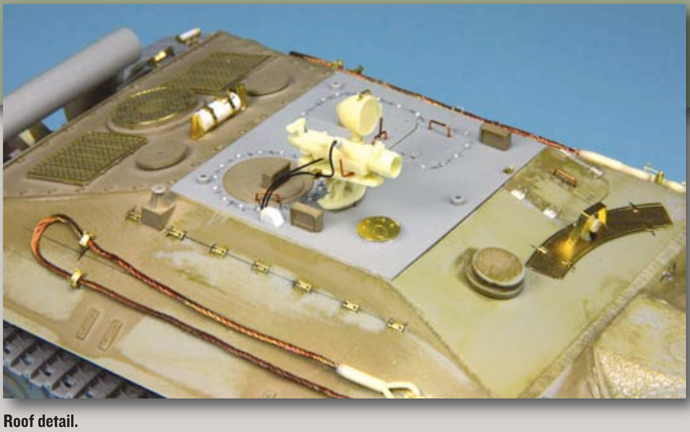

The hull roof with the addition of bolt heads around the hatches, the etch for the periscope and handles made from copper wire.

The exhaust.

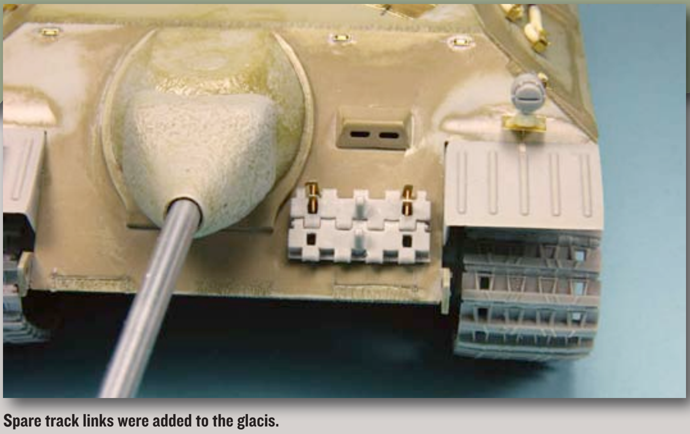

The exhaust was fitted with long pins to permit removal to aid painting.


Construction finished and ready for clean down and painting.

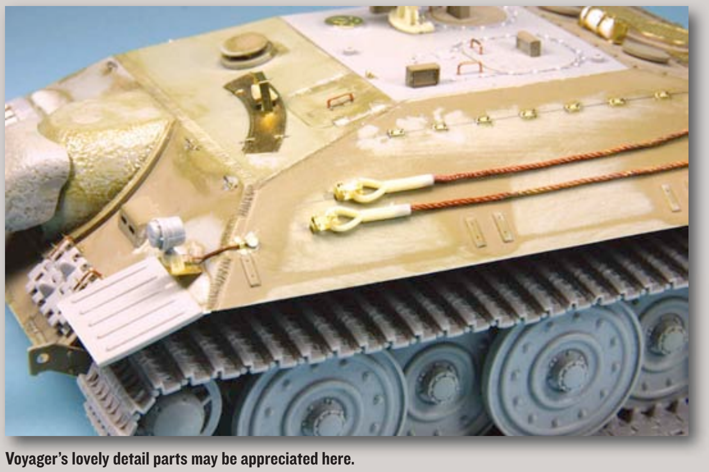
"I just HAD to give the poor thing a good home so it ended up in my stash, where it lurked until very recently..."



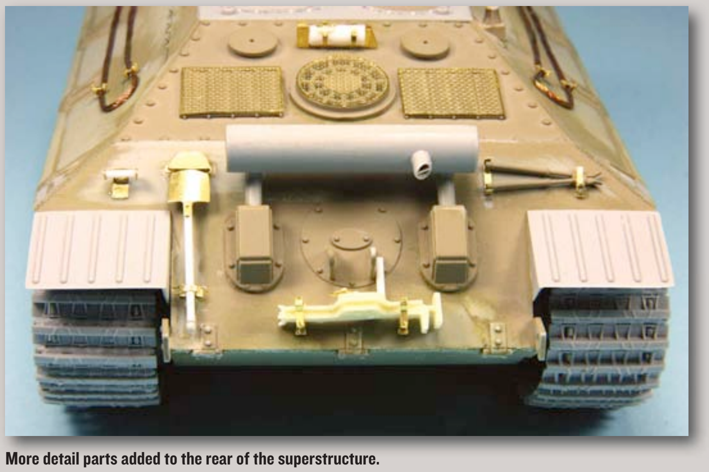
Roof detail.



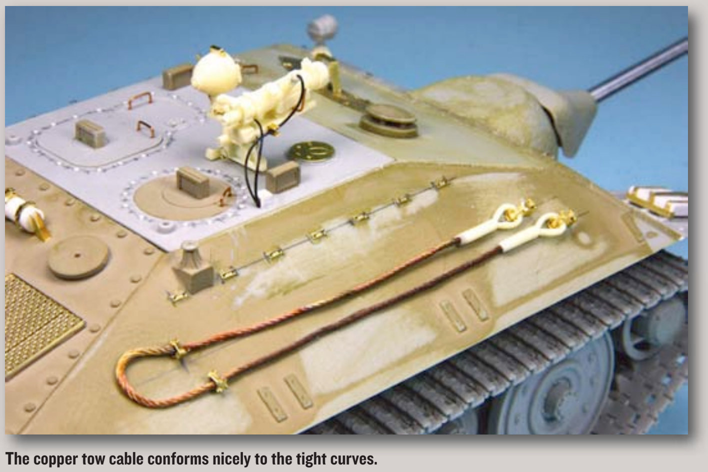
Spare track links were added to the glacis.



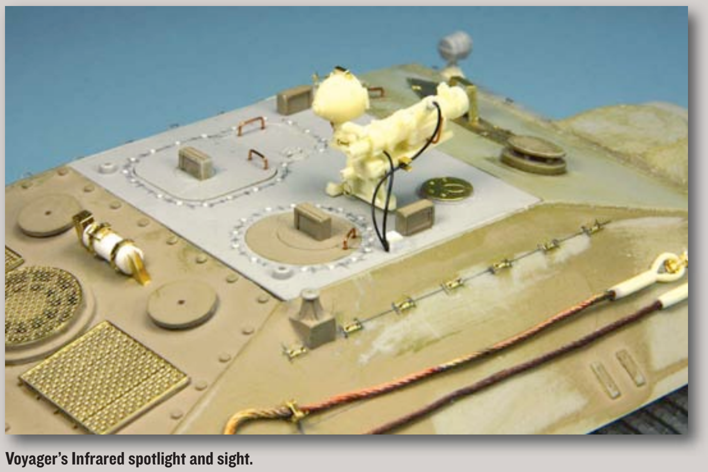
Voyager's lovely detail parts may be appreciated here.



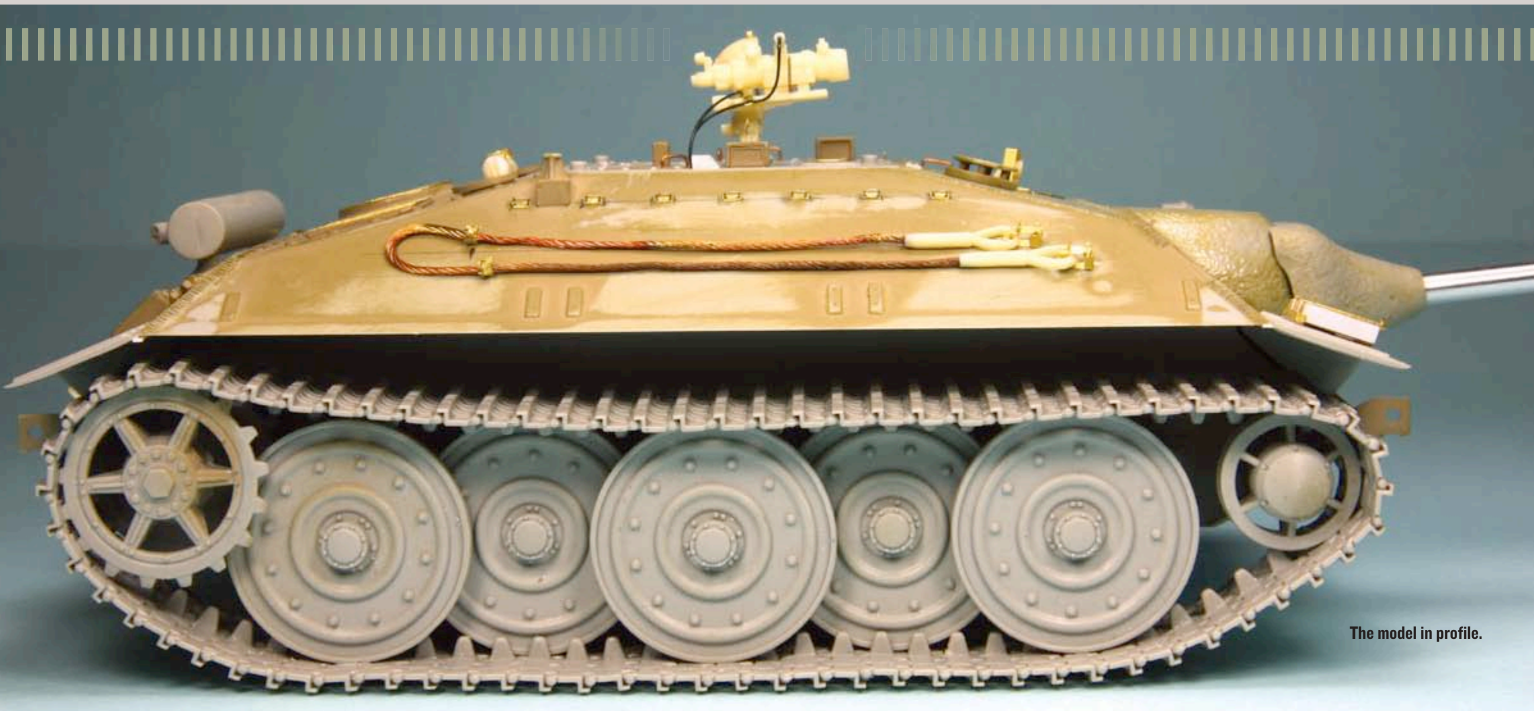
More detail parts added to the rear of the superstructure.



The copper tow cable conforms nicely to the tight curves.



Voyager's Infrared spotlight and sight.



The model in profile.

WEATHERING

I started off by spraying a 2:1 mix (more like 3:1 by the time I had finished) of Tamiya XF-1 Black and XF-52 Earth around the lower hull, wheels and tracks which is pretty old school these days but I still like it as an effect. Next up I applied a dark brown pin-wash around the details and added some streaks on the upper hull with the same mix. Various Mig pigment powders were built up under the fenders and around the suspension and fixed into place with odourless thinners (I have to use odourless stuff as other spirits stink the house out). The tracks were given the same treatment and rubbed over with graphite powder. AK Interactive Fuel Streaks was used around the filler caps above the engine grills with various other streaky AK products used here and there on the hull. The engine grills also got some black pastel chalk thrown into them.

My good friend and highly respected modeller Markus Lack gave me a great tip for the periscopes which was to paint them matt black first, then after masking off the areas around the periscopes I rubbed them with graphite powder finishing them off with a coat of Tamiya X-25 Clear Green. The Infrared sights were painted in a different shade of dark yellow from the Ammo range by Mig for some contrast with the lenses being painted the same way as the periscopes but substituting the clear green for Tamiya Smoke (X-19).

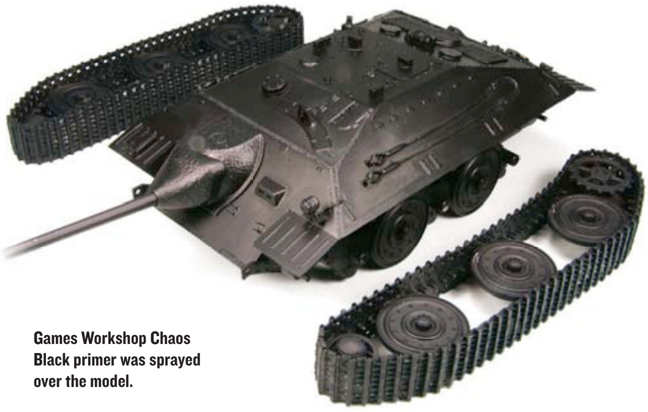
The final details were added such as the aerial (from old guitar string) and the spare track links on the front hull.

CONCLUSION

Well that was fun! I know not everybody is a fan of paper panzers and to be honest neither was I until recently, but after a lengthy in-depth build it was good to have the freedom to exercise some artistic licence. I know I probably went a bit overboard with the extra detailing as it was supposed to be just a relaxing stress-free build however even that was enjoyable in a perverse sort of way.

Definitely a genre of armour modelling to do if you want a break from historical accuracy.

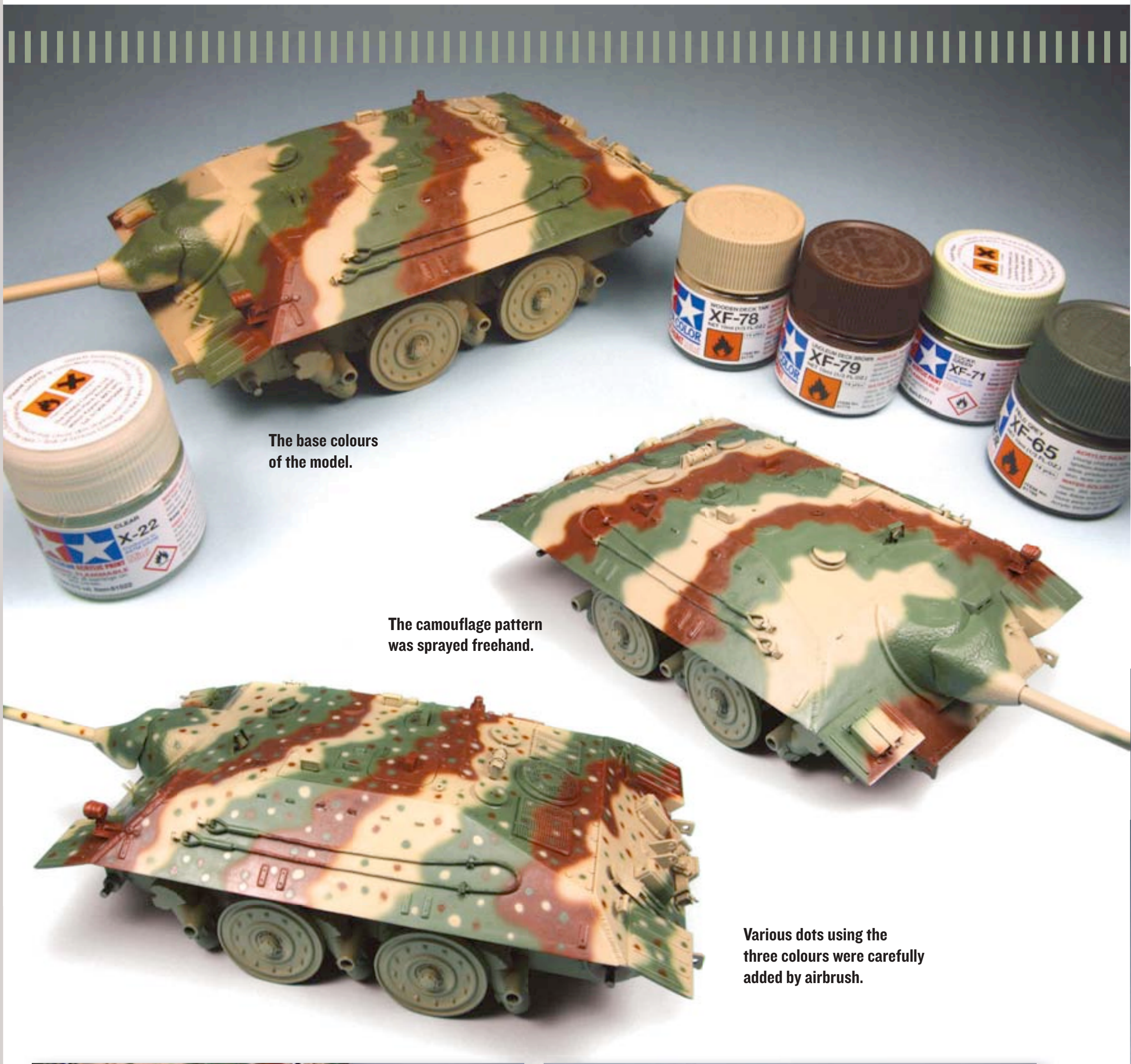
Many thanks to Malc Ireson for the kit and to Markus Lack for the tip about painting periscopes. ■



Games Workshop Chaos Black primer was sprayed over the model.

The exhaust was sprayed in various rusty browns and hairspray was then applied.

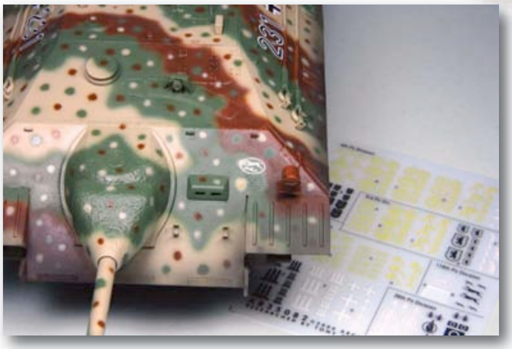
The base colour of XF-78 was sprayed and when dry chipped away with a stiff brush.



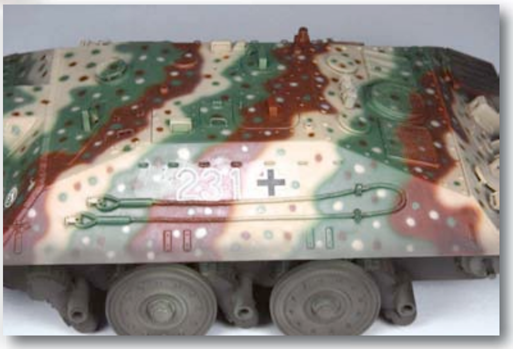
The base colours of the model.

The camouflage pattern was sprayed freehand.

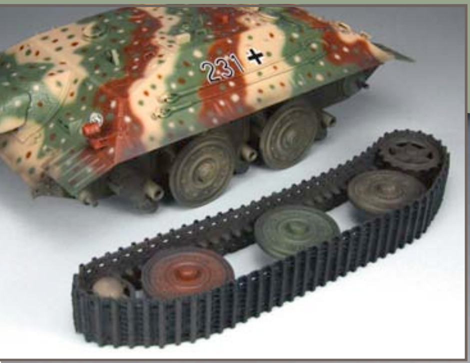
Various dots using the three colours were carefully added by airbrush.



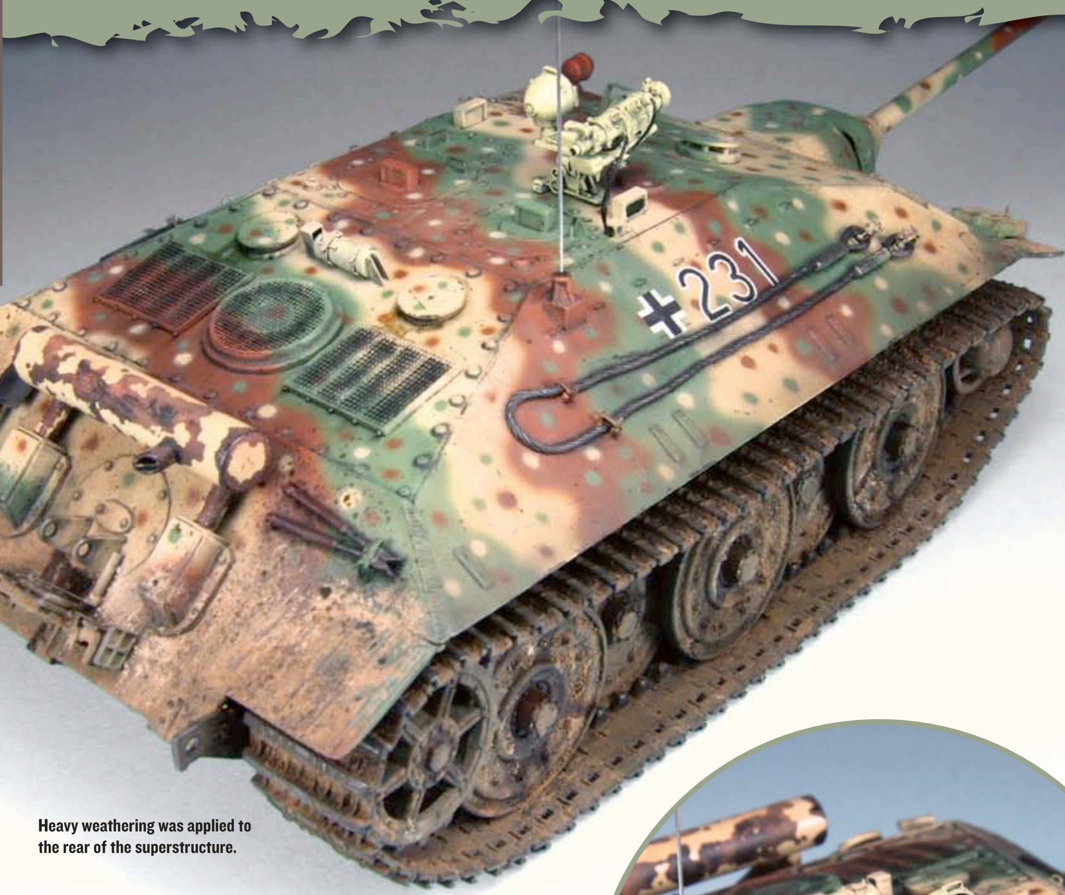
The Greyhound emblem of the 118th Panzer Division came from an Archer set of rub down decals.



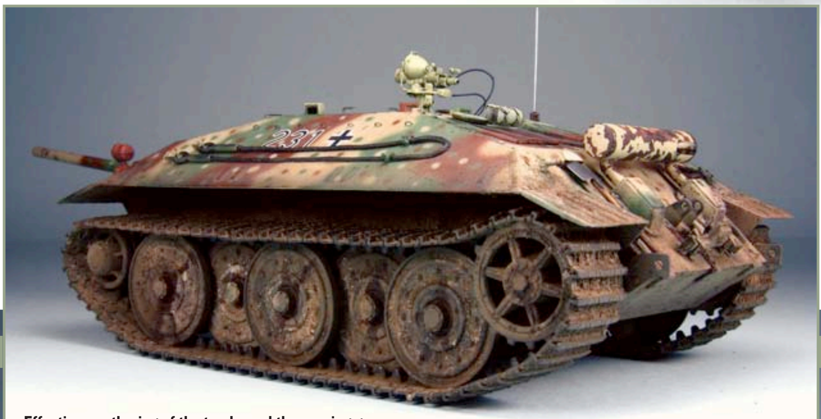
The hull numbers are from a Dragon Sd.Kfz. 251 decal sheet.



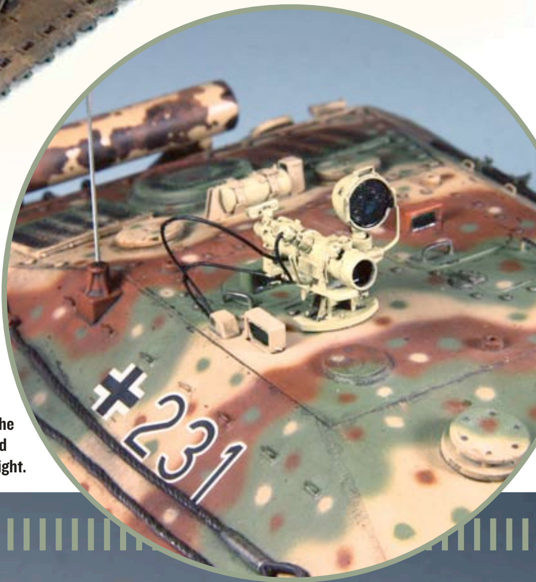
A mix of Tamiya black and earth was sprayed around the lower hull and running gear.



Heavy weathering was applied to the rear of the superstructure.

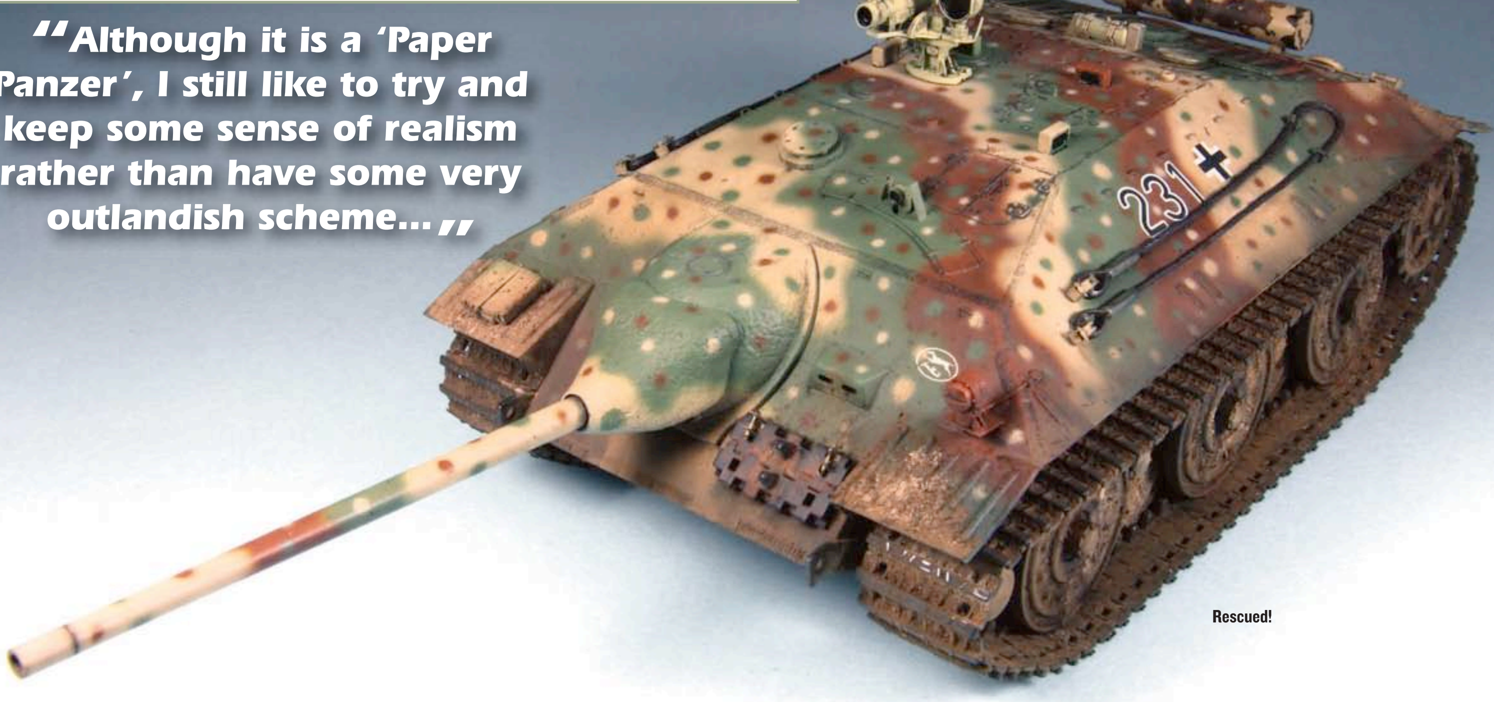


Effective weathering of the tracks and the running gear.



Detail view of the painted Infrared spotlight and sight.

> “Although it is a ‘Paper Panzer’, I still like to try and keep some sense of realism rather than have some very outlandish scheme...”



Rescued!

hard hitting convertible

part two - stowage, painting, weathering and crew figures

Brett Green adds improvised sandbag armour, stowage and a crew to Tamiya's all-new 1:35 scale U.S. M10 Tank Destroyer.

When I heard that Tamiya was planning to release an M10 Tank Destroyer, I searched for wartime photos online. I found one intriguing image of an M10 with sandbags piled onto the front of the hull, stowage tied to the hull sides and turret, and a mystery object being carried on the rear deck. Careful examination of this object led me to believe that it was most likely a rolled-up wire fence.

A quick search of available accessories revealed DEF Models' M10 GMC Stowage Set, Item No. DM35042. The title somewhat undersells the contents, which includes not only stowage but sandbag armour, two logs, a Culin hedgerow device and even a photo-etched bucket!

This set particularly appealed to me as it was obviously based on the photo that I had just come across.

DEF's stowage set was designed for the re-tooled Academy M10, but I found that I could achieve a good fit on the new Tamiya kit with only minimal extra work. In fact, the modifications were faster and easier than cleaning the waste from the resin parts.

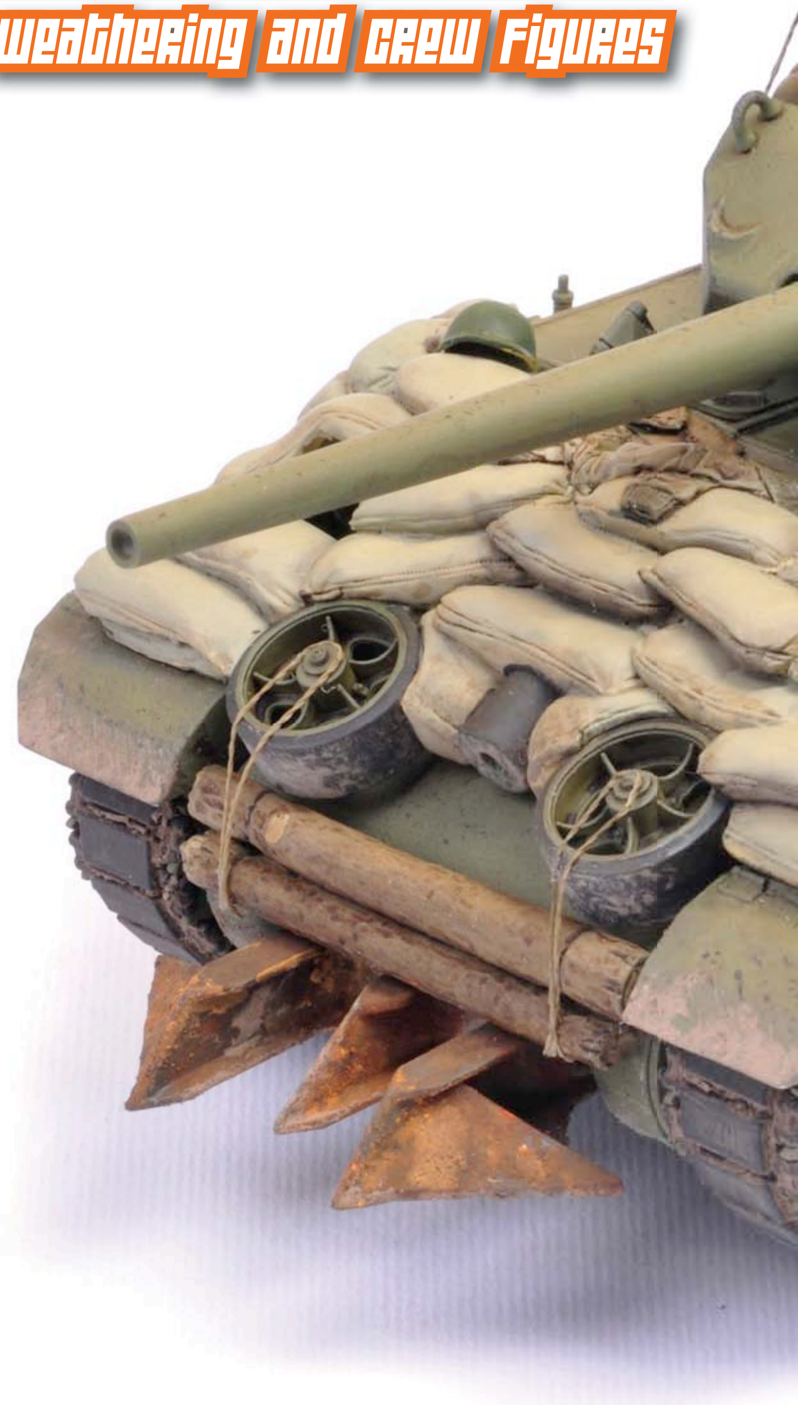
All I had to do was cut off some of the bosses from the front of the hull, and to grind away some of the edges using my Dremel tool fitted with a round dental burr.

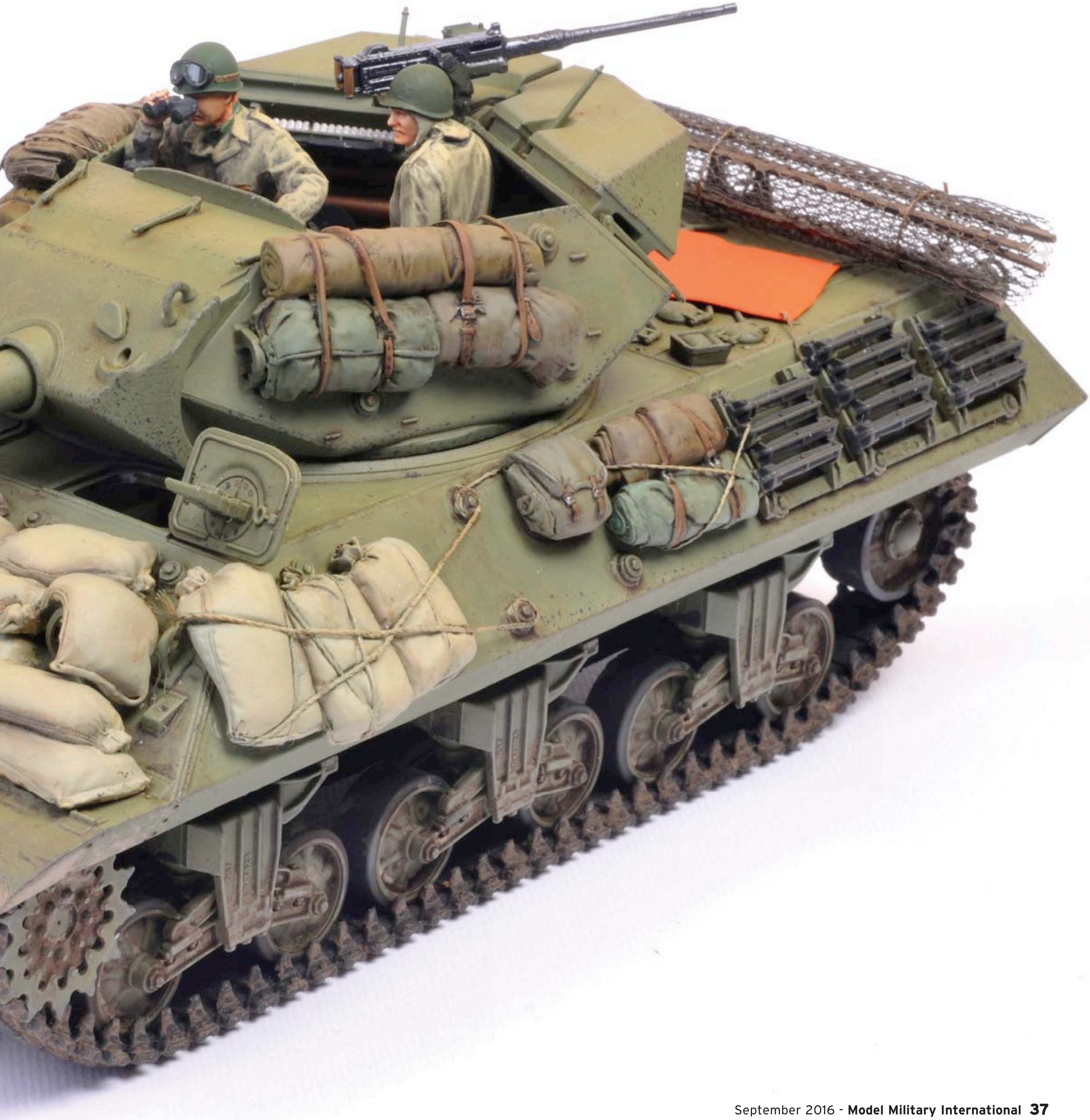
With the sandbag armour super glued to the upper forward hull, a few gaps remained beneath resulting in that nasty "floating" effect. I filled these gaps with thin rolls of White Milliput two-part epoxy putty. I also shaped a tiny ball of Milliput into a small rolled tarp to cover a gap at the top of the sandbag armour.

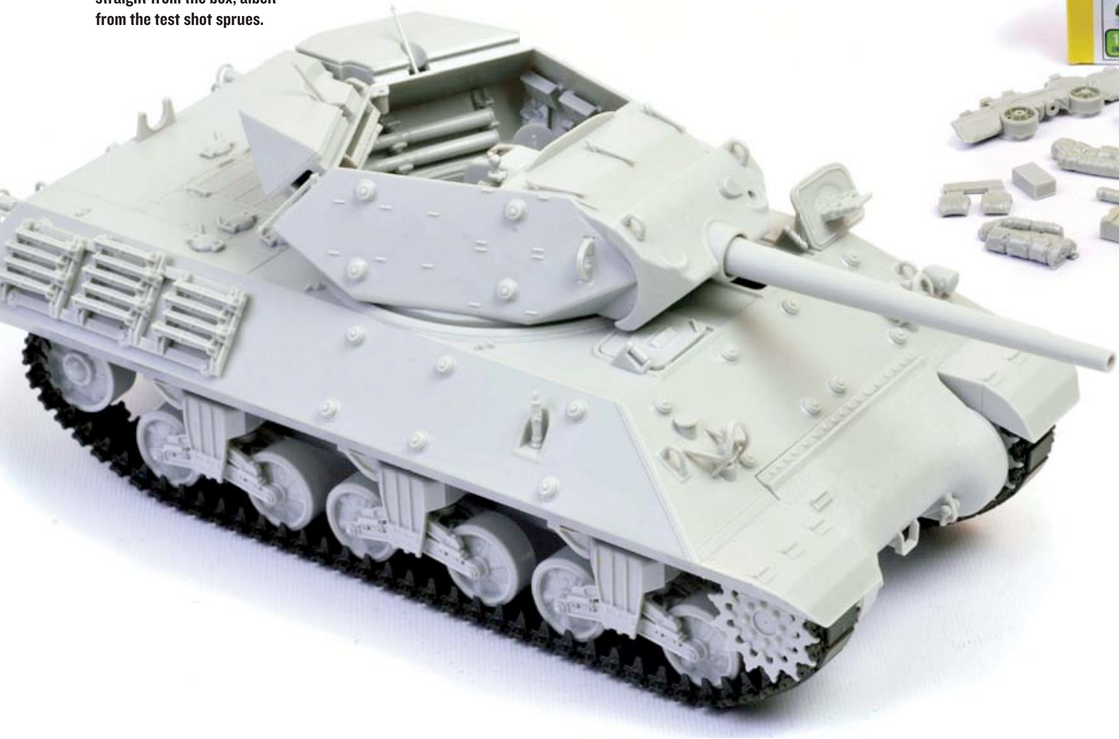
TEST FITTING AND MORE STOWAGE

At this stage, the upper and lower halves had not been glued together. I test fitted the upper and lower assemblies and was delighted to find that they would fit together - and come apart - with the resin sandbags glued in place. This would make painting much easier later on.

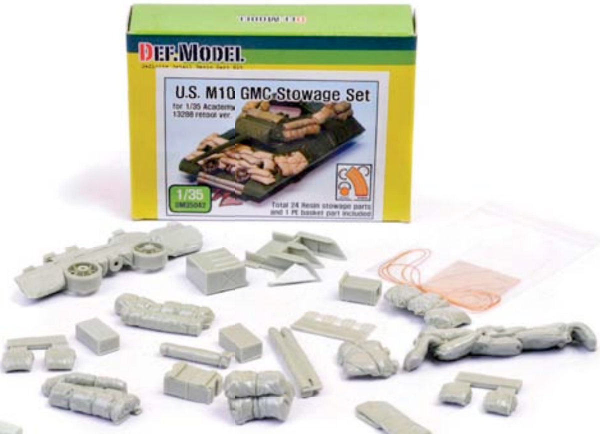
I glued the Culin device to the lower hull, and added some of the DEF stowage to the vehicle. I substituted a few items from a couple of Value Gear resin stowage sets in an attempt to more closely duplicate the configuration of the reference photo. ▶



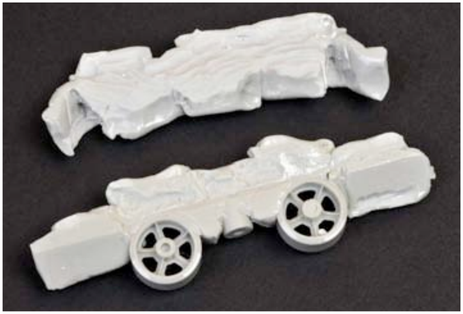




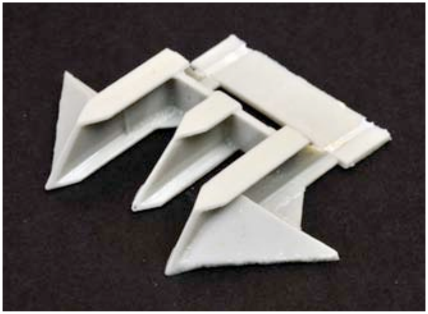
The model as finished straight from the box, albeit from the test shot sprues.



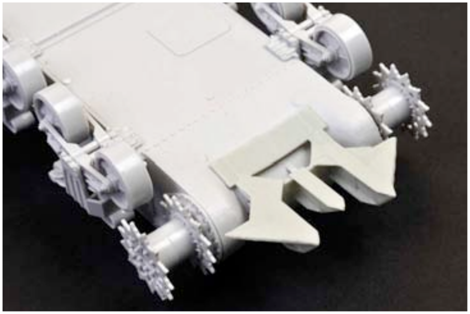
DEF Model's U.S. M10 Stowage Set was originally designed for the Academy kit.



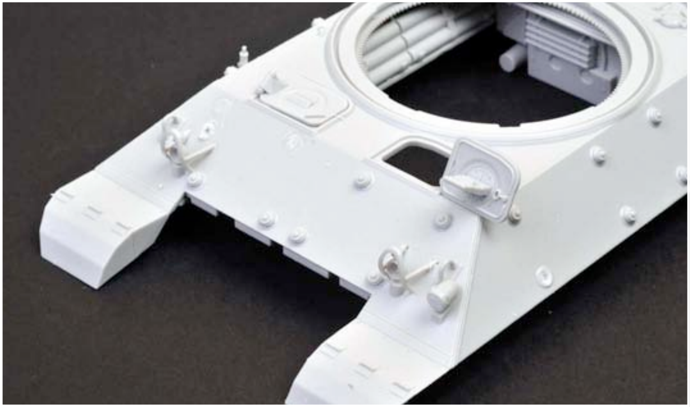
The rear of the main resin sandbag castings were hollowed out with my Dremel motor tool.



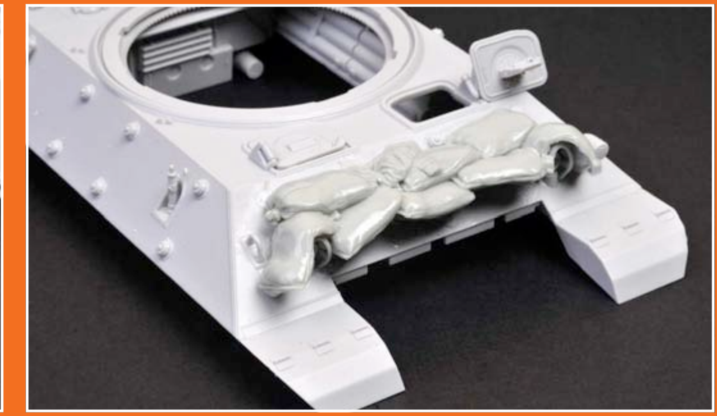
The Culin hedgerow device is a single casting – nice and easy!



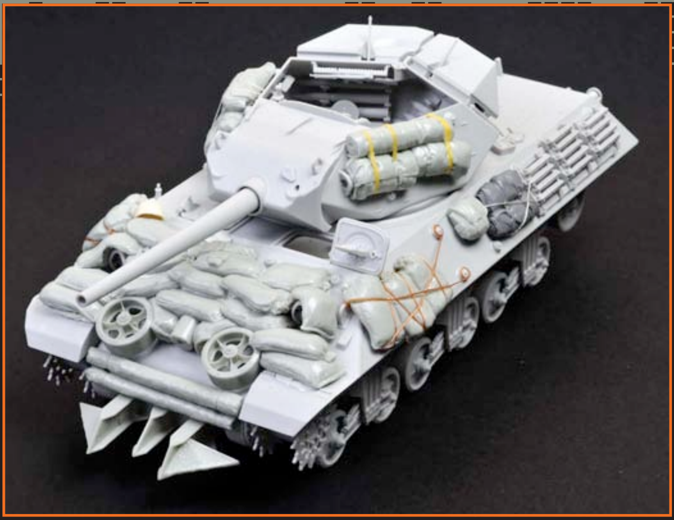
The Culin device was simply glued to the bottom of the transmission cover.

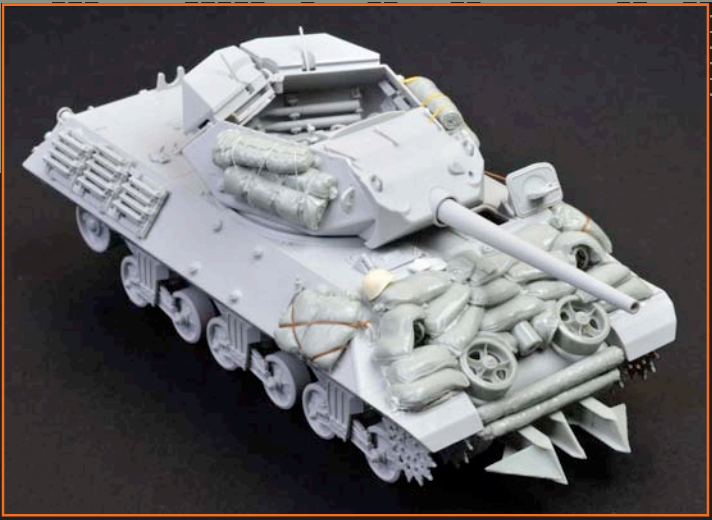


After test-fitting the resin sandbags, a few of the raised bosses were cut off the hull.



The main sandbag casting was super-glued to the upper hull.


Stowage has been glued to the upper hull and the turret plus the hull halves are tested for fit. They're not glued together at this stage.


DEF Model supplies string to depict rope holding the stowage and side sandbags in place.

AIR IDENTIFICATION

I also decided to add an Air Identification panel to lend some bright contrast to the otherwise drab finish.

Air Identification Panels were used in the European Theatre from D-Day until the end of the war as a way for Allied aircrews to distinguish German from US and British vehicles on the ground.

The US Army Panel Set comprised a fluorescent pink/red panel and a fluorescent yellow panel. A blue panel was available too, but this was only used by vehicles behind the front lines.

Each of the panels was backed with white, and this could be used in combination with the other colours. Two versions were available – either 12 feet long and 28 inches wide; or a shorter 6 foot long pennant.

After the Germans became aware of the use of the panels, they were rotated in combinations of red, yellow and white according to a schedule that changed on a weekly basis.

The panel was made from Kneadatite Blue/Yellow Epoxy Putty Tape. The two colours were rolled and kneaded together until they become a uniform green. The ball of mixed putty was then rolled several times using a glass jar, sprinkled with talcum powder to avoid sticking. Once the putty was rolled into a flat sheet, it was cut to size with a straight edge, lay upon the engine deck to allow it to conform to the lumps and bumps, and allowed to set.

Once set, it can be removed from the engine deck and painted separately.

PAINTING

Some time ago I mixed a custom batch of Tamiya TS-28 Olive Drab with about 15% AS-15 Tan (USAF) decanted into a glass jar. I thought that this medium shade might look interesting on my Easy Eight. Being a hard-wearing Tamiya spray lacquer, this also meant that I did not need a primer coat.

I started with a coat of Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the spray can. This allowed me to check one last time for any gaps or imperfections, especially where the sandbags met the armour plate.

The mixed lacquer Olive Drab base coat was applied with my Iwata HP-C Plus airbrush.

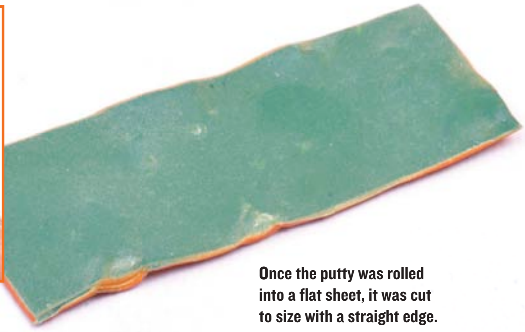
A paler shade was then mixed by adding a little Desert Yellow. This was added in streaks and patches on the hull and the turret.

Next, Sin Industries Filter - P402 Brown for Desert Yellow was applied overall with a soft brush. Once this had dried, I applied a more selective dark brown wash to bolts, edges and other raised and recessed structural features. AK Interactive AK 045 Dark Brown Enamel Wash was used for this.

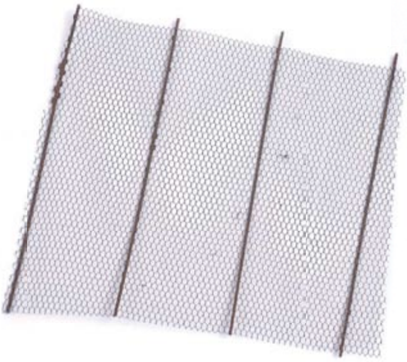
Kneadatite
Blue/Yellow
EPOXY PUTTY TAPE
BONDS • FILLS • SEALS
IRON, STEEL, ALUMINUM, GLASS, CONCRETE, TILE, WOOD, FIBERGLASS, SOME PLASTICS
PSI
The Air Identification Panel was made from Kneadatite Blue/Yellow Epoxy Putty Tape.

The two colours were rolled and kneaded together until they become a uniform green.

The long strip was rolled into a ball then flattened with a glass jar, sprinkled with talcum powder to avoid sticking.


Once the putty was rolled into a flat sheet, it was cut to size with a straight edge.

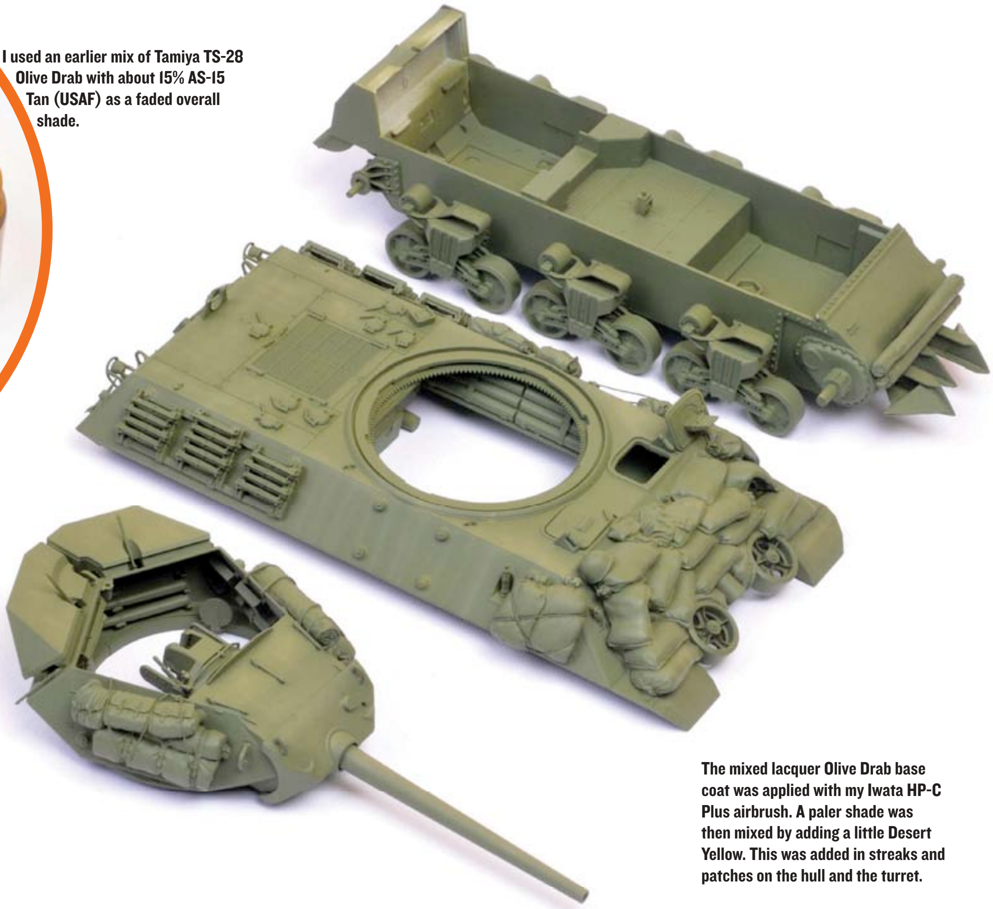
Dio Dump's 1:35 scale chicken wire was cut to size for the fence.


The reference photo shows what appear to be support poles on the wire. These were cut from fine plastic rod and glued to the sections of chicken wire.

The fence was then rolled up and tied with string.

TS-28
OLIVE DRAB
+ 15% AS-15
USAF TAN

I used an earlier mix of Tamiya TS-28 Olive Drab with about 15% AS-15 Tan (USAF) as a faded overall shade.



The mixed lacquer Olive Drab base coat was applied with my Iwata HP-C Plus airbrush. A paler shade was then mixed by adding a little Desert Yellow. This was added in streaks and patches on the hull and the turret.

◀ One again waiting for the wash to dry, I readied J's Work Chipping Effect Pen Set. The name is a bit misleading – it is really a selection of sponges attached to the end of a handle. There is a good range of density, so different effects are possible for a variety of applications. The sponge was pressed onto Vallejo Panzer Aces 337 Highlight Ger. (Black) on a paper palette, then the sponge was pressed onto paper a few times to reduce the effect before it was applied to the model. The effect was applied more heavily to edges and heavy wear areas.

At this stage, the tyres of the road wheels, the grousers, tool heads and loader's hatch head cushion were all brush painted with Vallejo Panzer Aces 337 Highlight Ger, (Black).

STOWAGE PAINTING

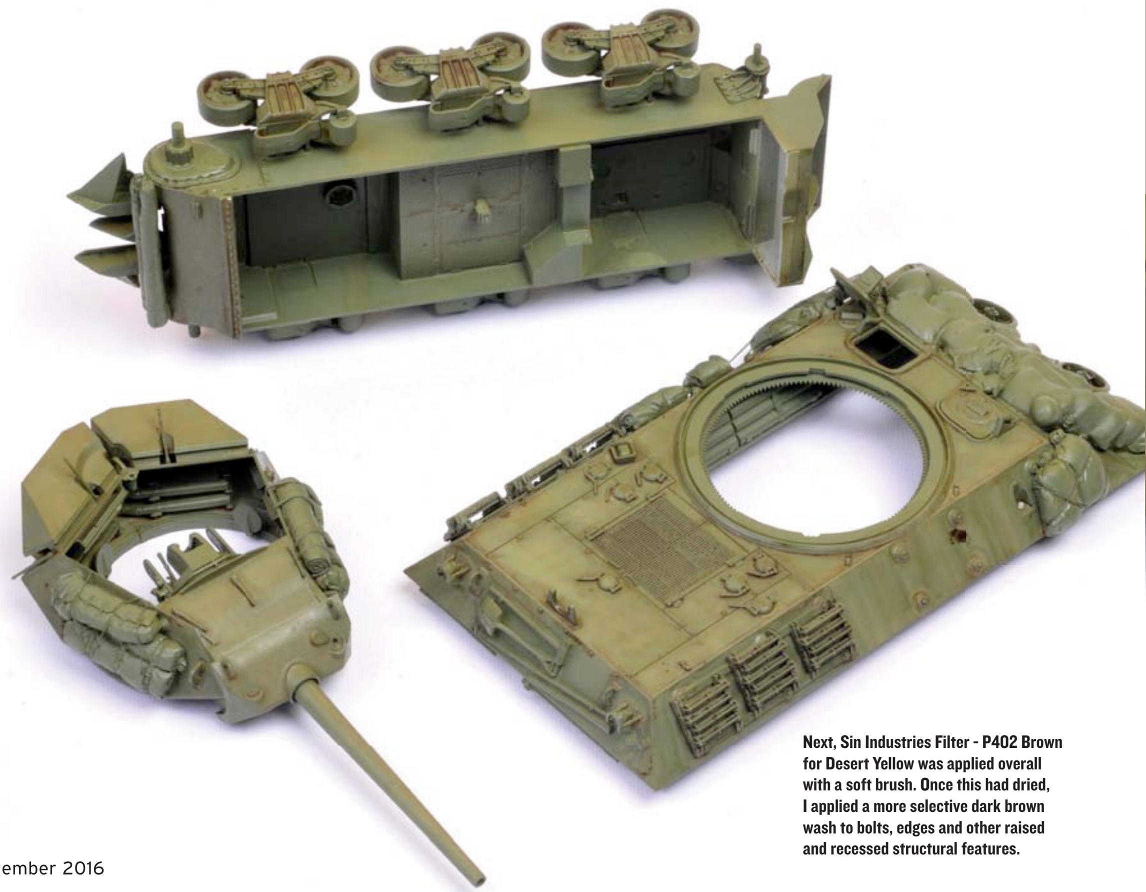
The sandbags, stowage, tool handles other details were all picked out with Vallejo acrylics applied by brush.

The Culin device and muffler were treated to various rust shades from MIG Pigments.

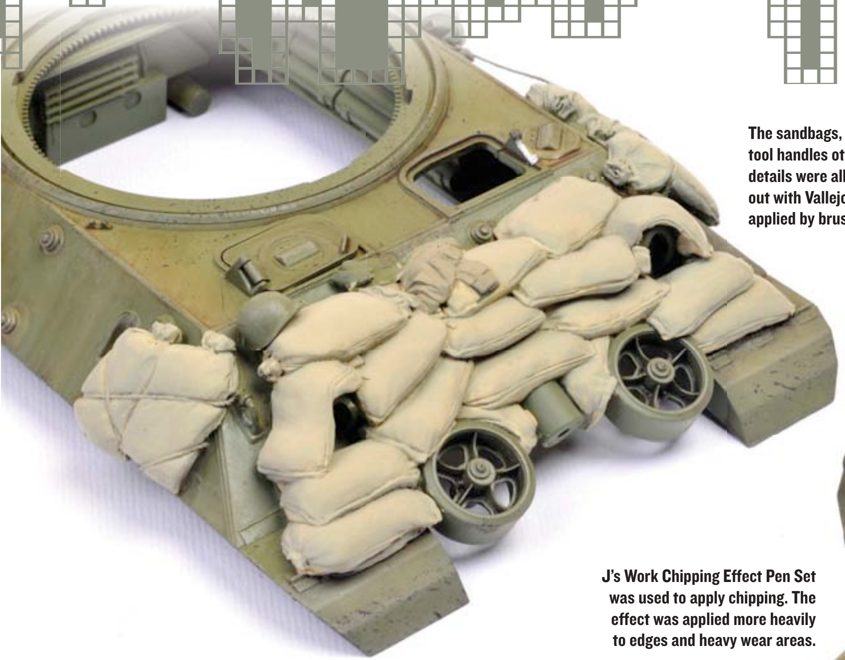
Next came the Air Identification Panel. As red can be notoriously tricky to paint, I started with a base coat of Tamiya White Primer from the spray can, followed by a mixed shade of Orange-Red applied by airbrush.

With the painting now complete, two thin coats of Alclad II Flat Clear Lacquer restored the matt surface and tied in the painting of the vehicle and the stowage.

Weathering continued with a thinly sprayed coat of Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan on the running gear and lower surfaces, including vertical streaks. This depicts dust. ▶



Next, Sin Industries Filter - P402 Brown for Desert Yellow was applied overall with a soft brush. Once this had dried, I applied a more selective dark brown wash to bolts, edges and other raised and recessed structural features.



The sandbags, stowage, tool handles other details were all picked out with Vallejo acrylics applied by brush.

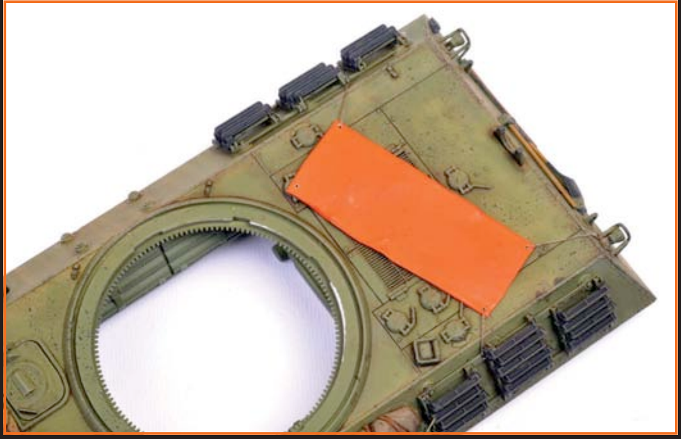
J's Work Chipping Effect Pen Set was used to apply chipping. The effect was applied more heavily to edges and heavy wear areas.

The logs were carefully painted with acrylics and also received an oil wash.

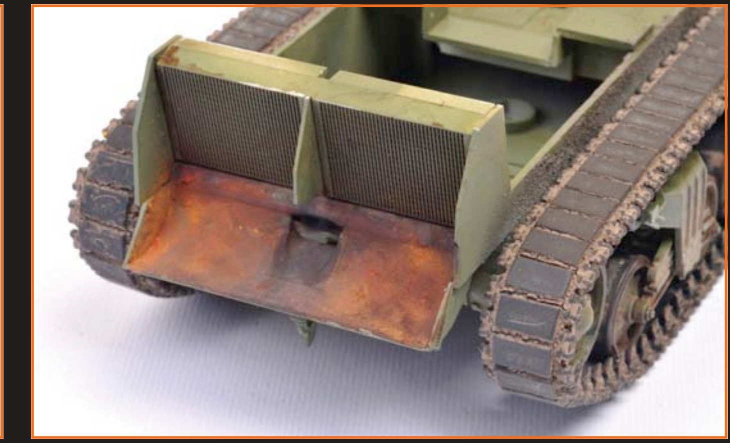
The Culin device and muffler were treated to various rust shades from MIG Pigments.

“We can only hope that the new VVSS suspension finds its way onto other M4 variants from Tamiya in the future..!”

Minimal weathering was applied to the sandbags – just lightly sprayed shading and a very thin wash.



The corners of the Air Identification Panel were drilled to fit string tie-downs.



The radiator exit ramp was weathered with rust coloured pigments and airbrushed black exhaust stains.

CHICKEN WIRE

Just about the last construction task was depicting the rolled wire fence for the engine deck. I had already used Dio Dump's 1:35 scale chicken wire on my recent Tamiya M4A3E8 Sherman, and it was perfect for this application too.

I then cut the soft plastic wire to a size that would overlap the engine deck on both sides.

The reference photo shows what appear to be support poles on the wire. These were cut from fine plastic rod and glued to the sections of chicken wire. The fence was sprayed Tamoya XF-52 Flat Earth before being rolled up and tied with string.

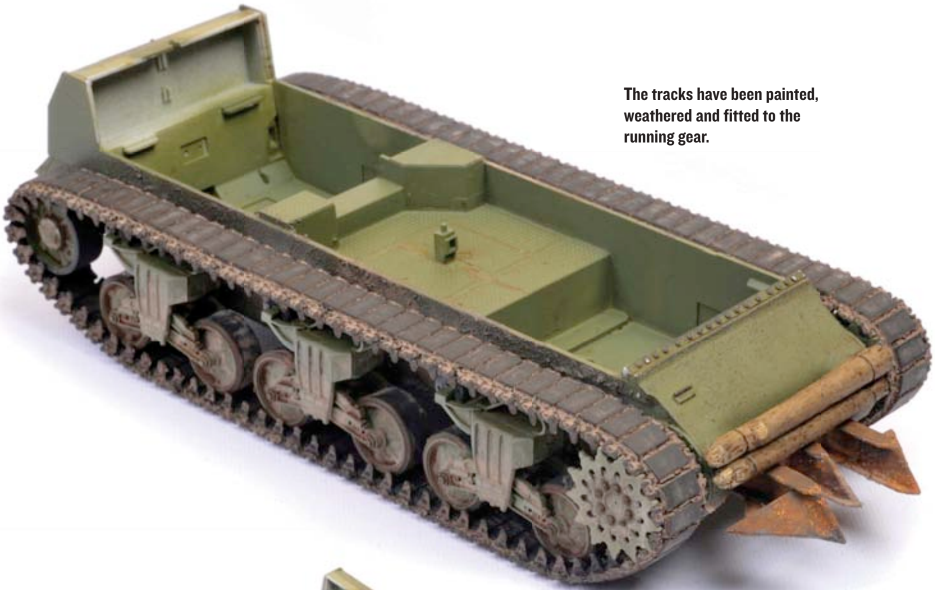
FINISHING THE VEHICLE

The vinyl track loops were sprayed with a mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. Easy Mud – 21105 European Earth was stippled onto the inside and outside surfaces of the tracks. I rubbed most of the Easy Mud off the tracks using a soft cloth, leaving a pleasing residue in the treads.

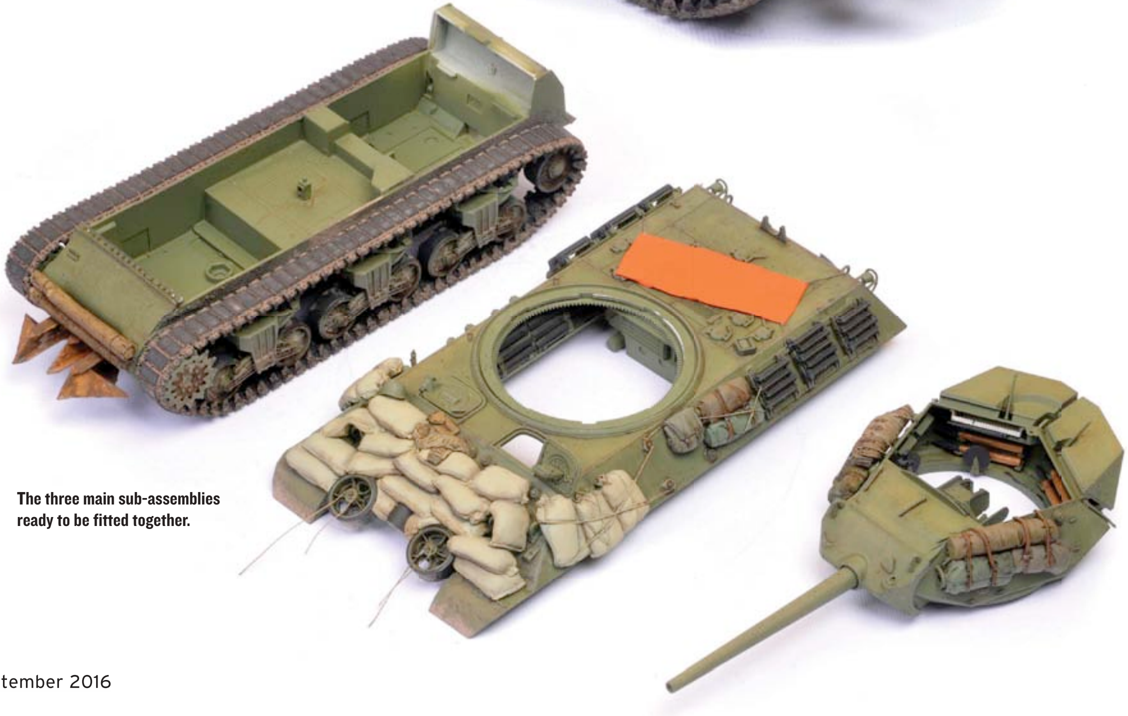
Once this had dried, the road wheels were pressed onto their axles and the track was looped around the drive sprocket, which was also pressed into place. The final step was to slip the back loop of the track over the idler wheel, then press the idler wheel home.

With the tracks now in place, the upper hull was glued to the lower hull. With the hull halves permanently joined, I could now add the string between the spare road wheels and the two logs on the transmission cover.

The ID panel and the rolled wire fence were glued to the engine deck now too.



The tracks have been painted, weathered and fitted to the running gear.



The three main sub-assemblies ready to be fitted together.

CREW FIGURES

Tamiya includes three action-packed crew figures with their M10 Tank Destroyer.

Tamiya figures have been steadily improving over the last decade, to the point where I did not think these guys needed any enhancements beyond careful painting. The poses are natural, and the sculpting is excellent. Facial features are very realistic and of course the standard of moulding is everything you would expect from Tamiya.

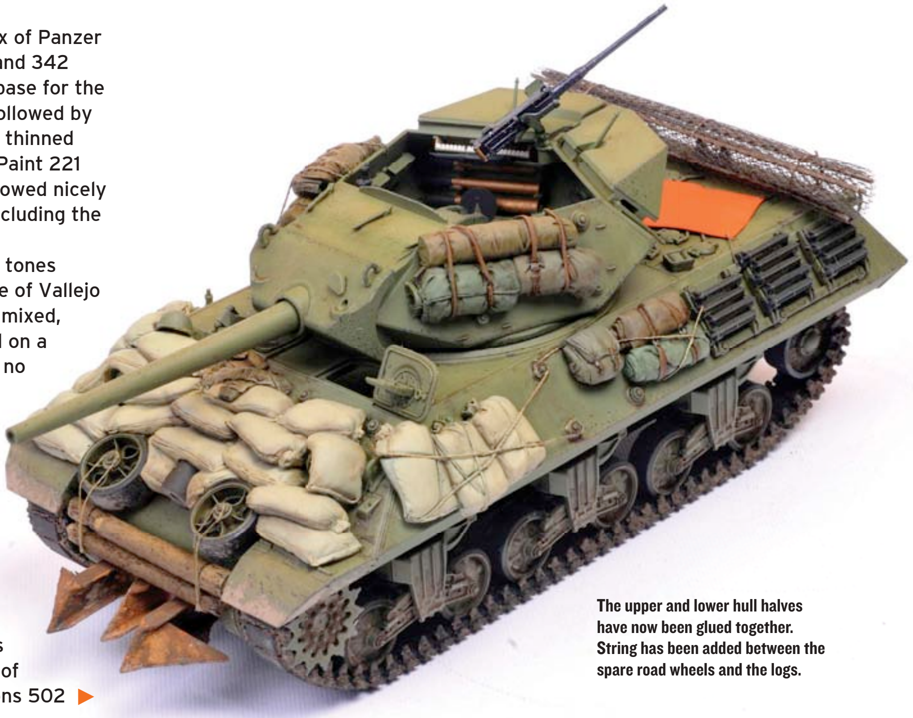
The figures were assembled using Revell Contacta cement, but the heads were not glued in place just yet. The heads were drilled and mounted on toothpicks to make handling easier.

First the figures were primed - bodies using Tamiya Grey Primer and heads Tamiya Fine White Primer, both straight from the spray can.

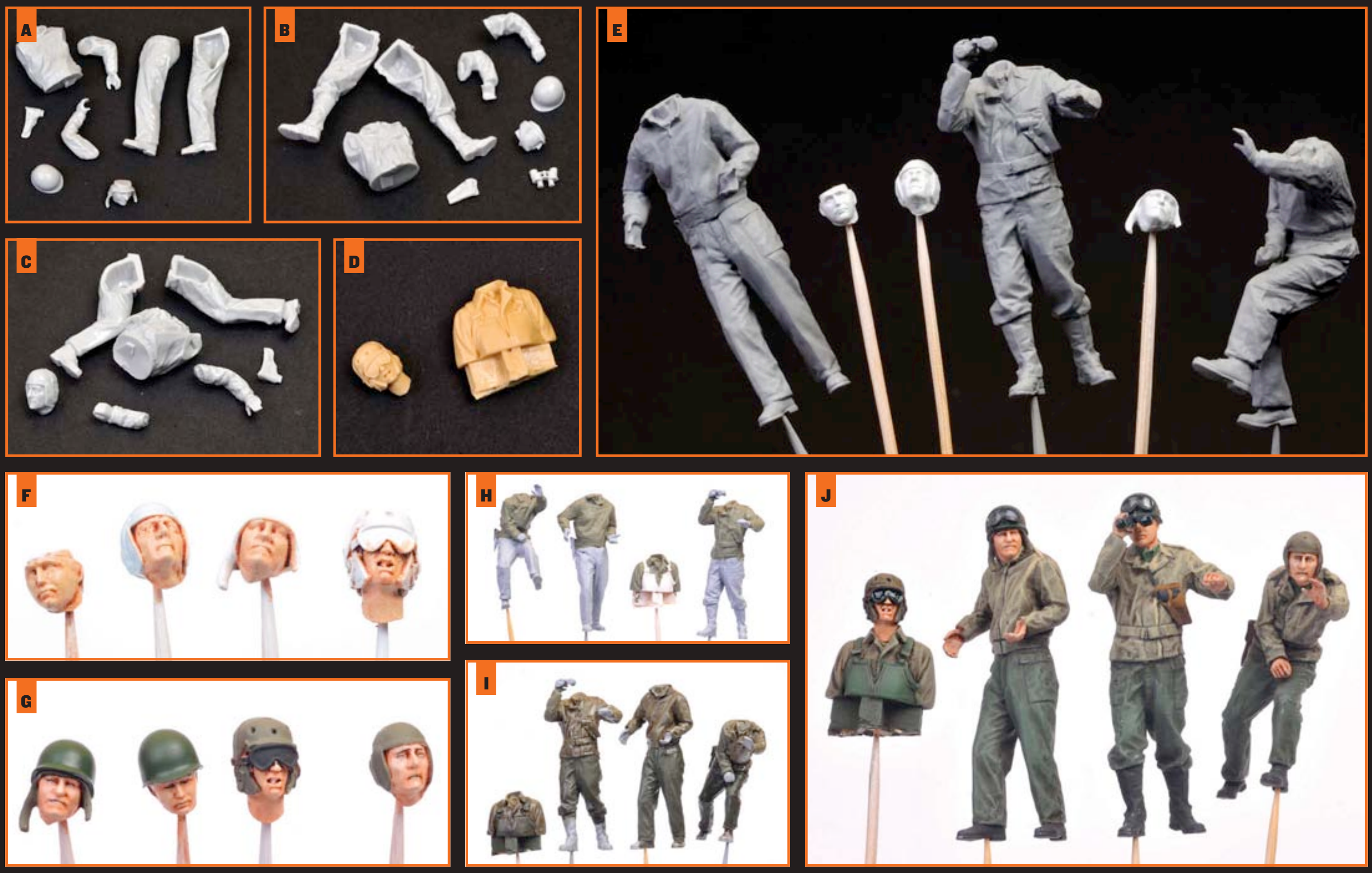
Next, the faces and hands were brush painted with mix of Panzer Aces 341 Flesh Base and 342 Flesh Highlights as a base for the skin tones. This was followed by a fairly heavy wash of thinned Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna, which flowed nicely into low-lying areas including the mouths and eyes.

Painting of the skin tones continued with a range of Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylics, mixed, remixed and reapplied on a trial-and-error basis – no magic formula here unfortunately! I have, however, provided a detailed list of the colours used in the Modelspec section following this text.

The base uniform colours were also sourced from Vallejo's acrylic range. A wash of thinned Mig Productions 502 ▶



The upper and lower hull halves have now been glued together. String has been added between the spare road wheels and the logs.



A. Tamiya includes three action-packed crew figures with their M10 Tank Destroyer. **B.** Tamiya figures have been steadily improving over the last decade, to the point where I did not think these guys needed any enhancements beyond careful painting. **C.** Facial features are very realistic and of course the standard of moulding is everything you would expect from Tamiya. **D.** I decided to add a driver figure for the open driver's hatch. This guy is from an old Warriors tank crew set. **E.** First the figures were primed - bodies using Tamiya Grey Primer and heads Tamiya Fine White Primer, both straight from the spray can. **F.** The faces and hands were brush painted with mix of Panzer Aces 341 Flesh Base and 342 Flesh Highlights as a base for the skin tones. This was followed by a fairly heavy wash of thinned Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna. **G.** Painting of the skin tones continued with a range of Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylics, mixed, remixed and reapplied on a trial-and-error basis. **H.** The base uniform colours were sourced from Vallejo's acrylic range. **I.** A wash of thinned Mig Productions 502 Abteilung Abt.090 Industrial Earth oil paint was brushed over the uniform colours and allowed to dry before further highlights and shading. **J.** The figure painting was completed with two generous coats of Alclad II Flat Clear.

◀ Abteilung Abt.090 Industrial Earth oil paint was brushed over the uniform colours and allowed to dry before further highlights and shading with more Vallejo acrylics.

The basic painted figures were sprayed with two coats of Future Floor Polish before the rank and division decals were applied to the sleeves. The heads were attached to the bodies at this stage.

The figure painting was completed with two generous coats of Alclad II Flat Clear.

At this point the clear goggles were painted and glued to the heads and added straps from Tamiya masking tape.

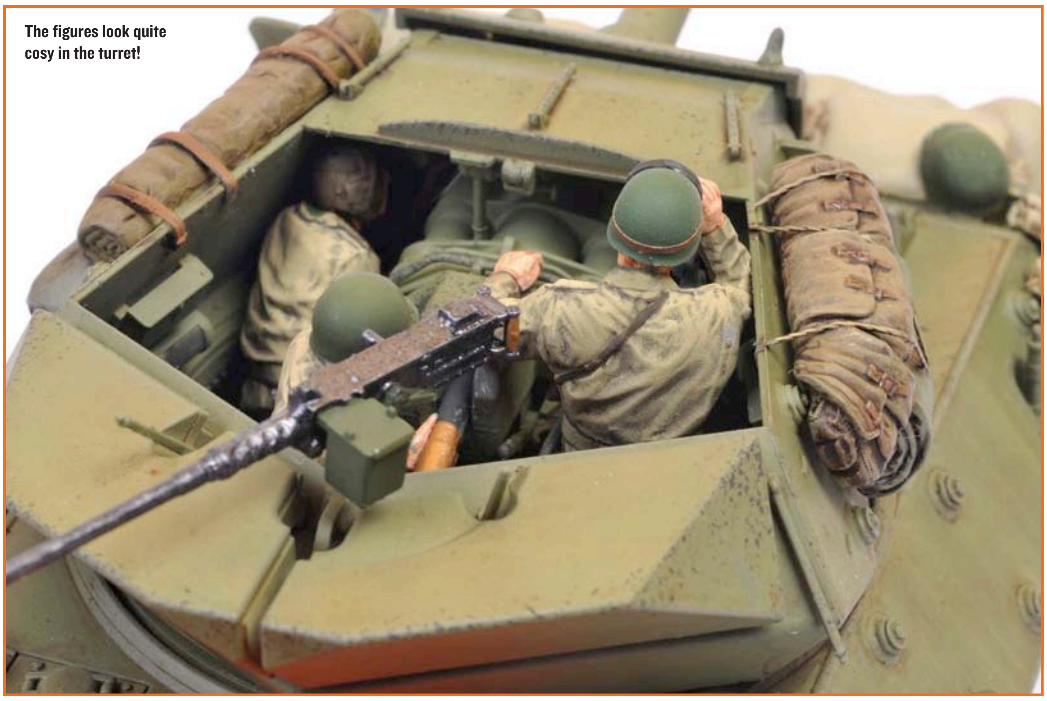
CONCLUSION

Tamiya brings their easy building philosophy to a VVSS Sherman-based vehicle for the first time.

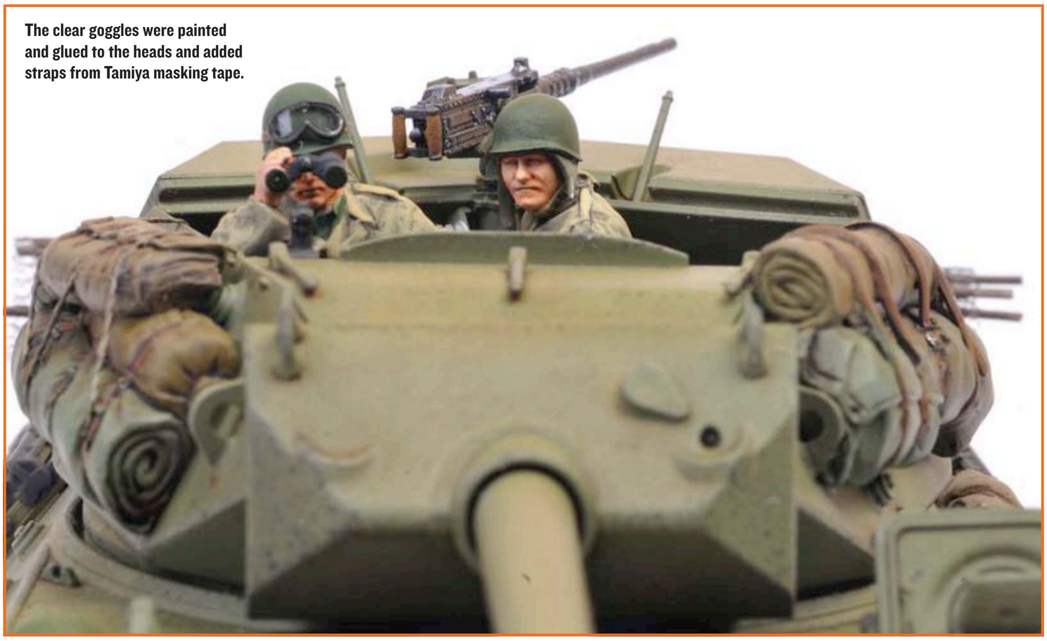
Tamiya's 1:35 scale M10 Tank Destroyer is a well detailed model with a nicely fitted out turret and a set of crew figures that lifts it into the category of instant vignette. The decision to include full length flexible tracks is entirely appropriate considering the tracks are "live" on VVSS suspension and were therefore stretched taut while fitted to the vehicle.

We can only hope that the new VVSS suspension finds its way onto other M4 variants from Tamiya in the future!

Highly Recommended. ■



The figures look quite cosy in the turret!



The clear goggles were painted and glued to the heads and added straps from Tamiya masking tape.

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 U.S. Tank Destroyer M10 Mid Production
Kit No. 35350

Accessories and Decals Used:

DEF.MODEL Item No. DM35042 - 1:35 U.S. U.S. M10 GMC Stowage Set
Parts from Value Gear Stowage Sets
Dio Dump Item No. DD006 - Chicken Wire

Tools and Materials Used:

Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement
Revell Contacta Professional Cement
Selley's Supa Glue
Kneadatite Blue-Yellow Epoxy Tape
Milliput White Two-Part Epoxy Putty
Tamiya 10mm Masking Tape
Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer
Gunze Mr Surfacer 500
Microscale Industries Kristal Klear
Iwata HP-CH Airbrush

Paints and Finishing Products:

Vehicle:
Tamiya Spray Grey Primer
Tamiya Spray Fine White Grey Primer
Tamiya Spray Can: TS-28 Olive Drab; AS-15 USAF Tan
Tamiya Acrylics: XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-49 Khaki; XF-57 Buff; XF-59 Desert Yellow; XF-60 Dark Yellow; XF-64 Red Brown.
Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics - 310 Old Wood; 311 New Wood; 337 Highlight Ger. (Black)
Vallejo Model Color - 919 Foundation White; 925 Blue; 942 Light Green.
Alclad II Flat Clear Lacquer
Sin Industries Filter - P402 Brown for Desert Yellow
MIG Productions Earth Wash
AK Interactive Enamel Wash - AK 045 Dark Brown
2B Pencil
Crew Figures - Flesh:
Base Coat: Tamiya White Primer followed by mix of Panzer Aces 341 Flesh Base and 342 Flesh Highlights.
Wash: Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna.
Variations and Highlights: Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylics 341 Flesh Base; Vallejo Model Colour 919 Foundation White (various mixes)
Crew Figures - Uniforms:
Base Coats: Pale Uniform Colour - Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylic 318 US Army Tankcrew mixed with a small amount of 322 Highlight US Tkcr.; Green Uniform Colour - Vallejo Model Colour 70893 US Dark Green.
Helmets: Vallejo Panzer Aces 318 US Dark Green US Army Tankcrew
Straps: Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylic 312 Leather Belt
Wash: Tamiya XF-1 Flat Blackand XF-64 Red Brown mixed with water and Future floor polish.
Variations and Highlights: Base coats mixed together and with Vallejo Panzer Aces 321 Highlights British Tkcr., 322 Highlight US Tkcr. and Vallejo Model Colour 847 Dark Sand and 919 Foundation White.
Borders and Additional Shading: Vallejo Panzer Aces 337 Highlight Ger. (Black).

✓ Superb fit; straightforward build; high level of detail; excellent crew figures in appropriate action poses.

✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

Available from

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com
Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

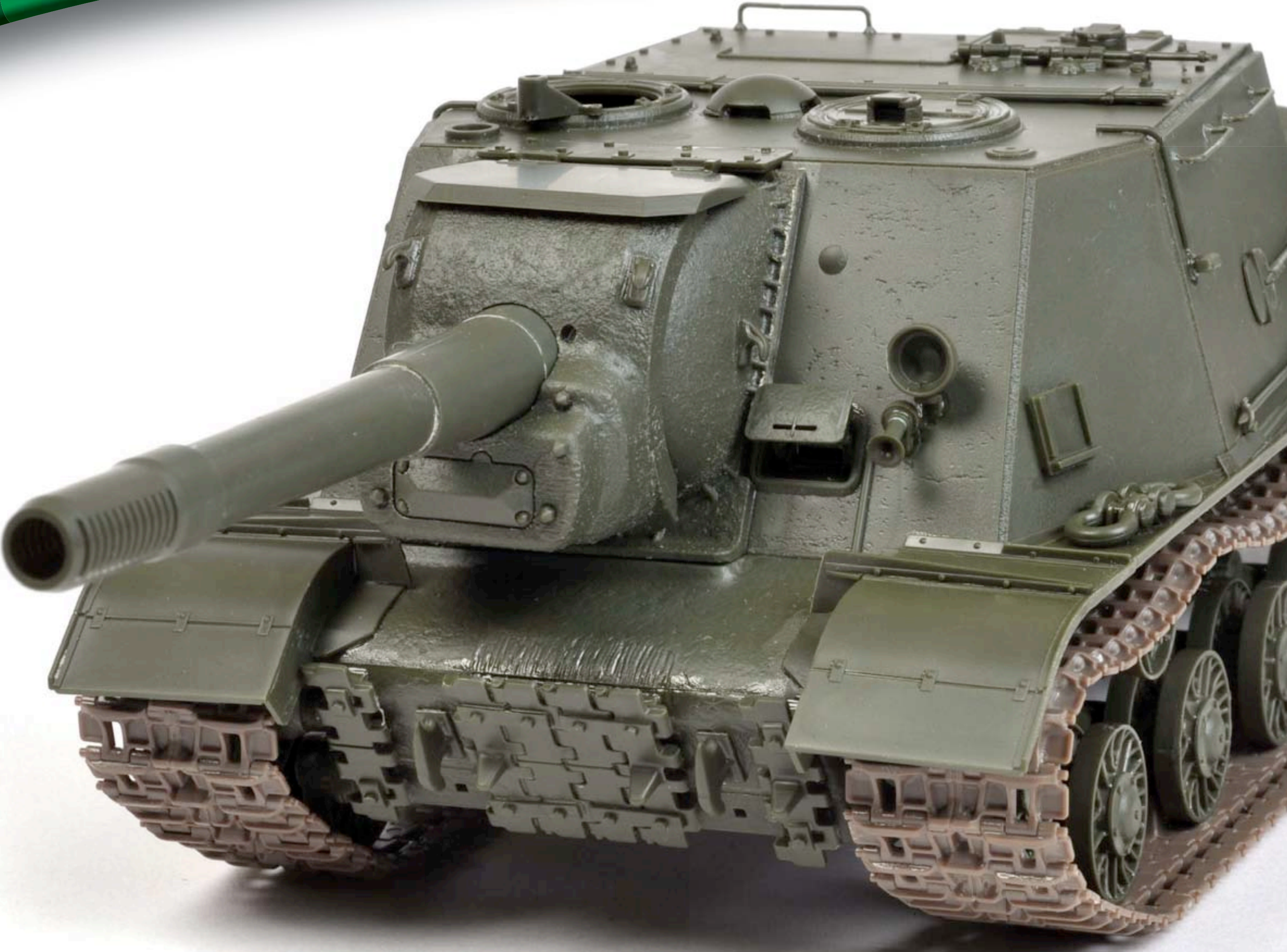
Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

The crew figures really bring the vehicle to life.

Tamiya's 1:35 scale M10 Tank Destroyer is a well detailed model with a nicely fitted out turret and a set of crew figures that lifts it into the category of instant vignette.

Tool heads were treated with the tip of a 2B pencil.

Tamiya 1:35 scale Russian JSU-152 • Kit No. 35303



ANIMAL KILLER!

In late 2009, The Editor built Tamiya's just-released 1:35 scale ISU-152 straight from the box. Full details may be found in Issue 45.

Tamiya released their "Beast Killer" in late 2009.

Tamiya's 1:35 scale ISU-152 seems to be typical of the 1944 model produced at the Chelybinsk factory. This variant may be identified by the heavy cast metal nose with its rounded transition between the upper hull and lower bow plate.

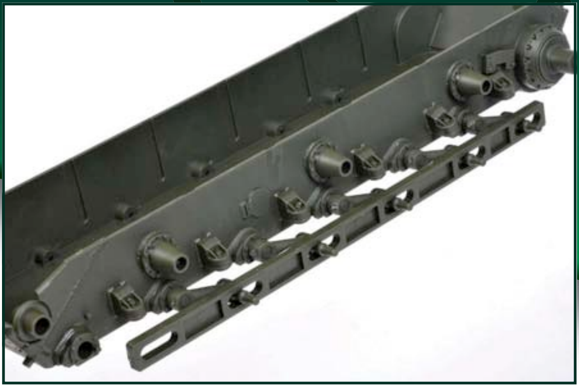
Tamiya implements a conscious policy of producing easy to build armour kits, and this 2009 release is no exception. Even so, you may be assured that this ease of construction does not compromise the standard of detail. This kit is superb in terms of both surface texture and attention to detail.

The lower hull, running gear and tracks are the same as those supplied with Tamiya's recent IS-2 kit. The split-style tracks are made up from straight lengths and individual links. Tamiya supplies a clever jig to set the upper run to an appropriate level of sag – a nice touch. A second jig is included to ensure that the road wheel axles are properly aligned.

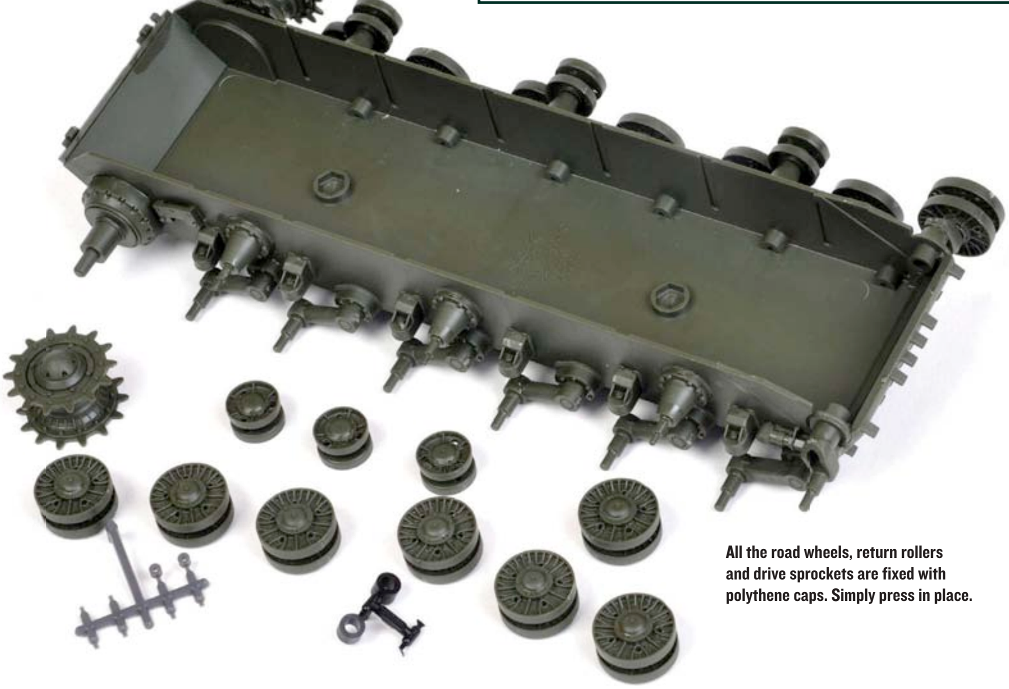
If you are not a fan of link and length, Tamiya also supplies two full-length flexible vinyl tracks as an option. These are well detailed on both sides.

Assembly is generally very precise and quite straightforward, I would recommend paying attention in several important areas:

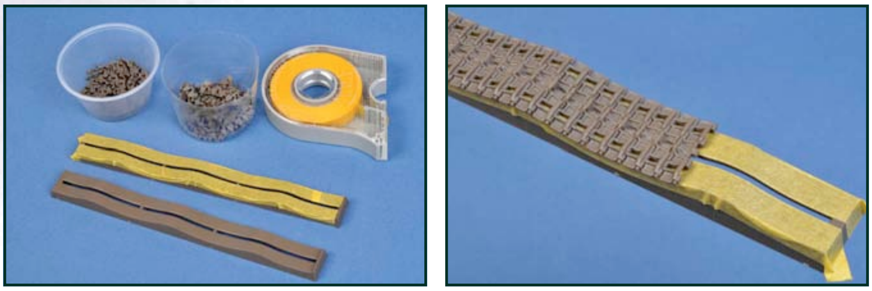
1. The instructions would have



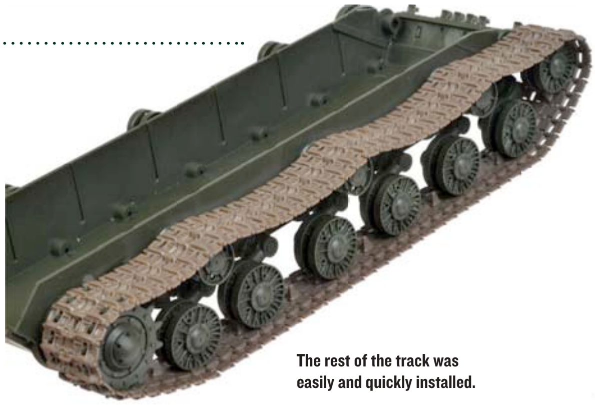
Tamiya thoughtfully supplies a jig to ensure perfect alignment of the suspension arms, but the moulded-on locating pins makes this almost unnecessary.



All the road wheels, return rollers and drive sprockets are fixed with polythene caps. Simply press in place.



A second set of jigs is offered to set the appropriate level of sag on the upper track run. Masking tape is attached to reduce the risk of gluing the tracks to the top of the jig. The two different styles of links have been sorted. Four links are dry-fitted to the jig at a time. They are then sparingly brushed with Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement.



The rest of the track was easily and quickly installed.

you attach the spare track links (parts A11 and F30) to the front hull plate (part F24) in Step 1. This means that the top of the spare links will overlap the join between the upper and lower hull, making it all but impossible to smooth the seam or roughen up the texture in this critical area. Leave the spare track links until after the upper and lower hulls have been joined.

2. Take care to keep track of parts F10 and F11, which encase the 152mm gun breech and allow it to elevate. If the parts are reversed, the front mantlet will sit too far from the main mantlet, as I found to my chagrin. Fortunately the glue had not completely set so I was able to prise the plastic apart and swap parts F10 and F11. This is not a fault of the kit or the instructions – it was entirely my carelessness - but it will pay to be very attentive.
3. The handholds (parts G48 and 49) are very delicate and subject to damage during assembly. Wait until everything else is complete before installing these.
4. In Steps 17 and 18, make sure that you dry-fit the hull hinges for the rear hatch (parts G50, G51 and G63) over the hinges on the hatch covers (parts G55 and G60) before sparingly applying cement to the outer sections of the hull hinges. If you are careful, the hatch will be fully workable.
5. There are a few areas with ejector pin marks that might be visible when the model is complete. The most obvious of these are on the inside of each track link, where there are two recessed circles. Ejector pin circles may also be found on the inside of some of the hatch covers. You will want to deal with these before commencing construction.

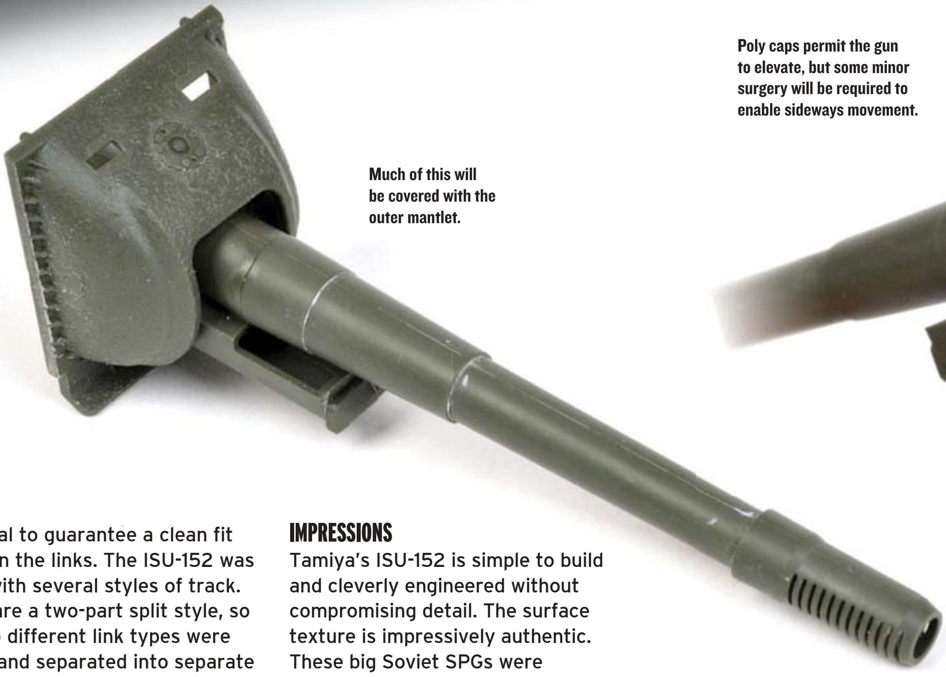
Tamiya's instructions call out construction in 18 logical steps. I followed these to the letter. In fact, the model was built straight from the box without any additional parts, extra surface texture or deviation from the instructions. What you see here is the model exactly as Tamiya has supplied it.

Tamiya supplies full-length flexible tracks as an option for those who really hate individual links. However, there is no escaping the heavy sag usually seen on Soviet WWII tanks in general, and on the ISU-152 in particular.

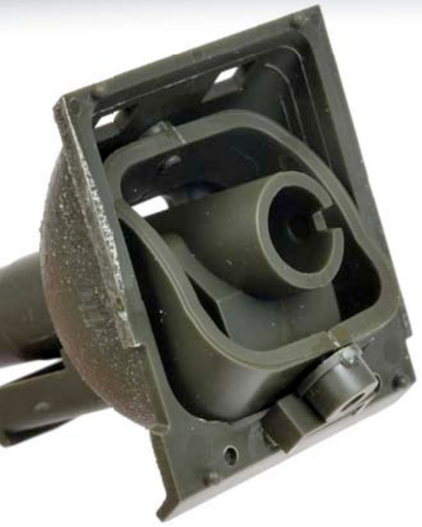
I used Tamiya's individual links as supplied in the kit. The first task was cutting off the individual links and thoroughly removing the remaining sprue attachment with a sharp hobby knife. This is ▶

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Tamiya 1:35 scale Russian JSU-152 • Kit No. 35303



Much of this will be covered with the outer mantlet.



Poly caps permit the gun to elevate, but some minor surgery will be required to enable sideways movement.

◀ essential to guarantee a clean fit between the links. The ISU-152 was fitted with several styles of track. These are a two-part split style, so the two different link types were sorted and separated into separate containers prior to assembly.

Tamiya's link and length ISU tracks are cleverly engineered. A wavy assembly jig is supplied for the top run. This sets the level of sag beautifully. Assembly is as simple as dry-fitting four or five links on the jig before sparingly brushing liquid glue in the middle of the join.

The instructions offer a very handy tip. They suggest applying masking tape to the top of the jig to prevent the track links being accidentally glued to the plastic guide. This worked perfectly for me.

I spent around two hours in total on the preparation and cleanup of the individual links, and assembly of the track runs. This must surely be the fastest way to install an authentically slack set of tracks.

IMPRESSIONS

Tamiya's ISU-152 is simple to build and cleverly engineered without compromising detail. The surface texture is impressively authentic. These big Soviet SPGs were roughly hewn, with gigantic slabs of armour and large coarse castings. Neatness was not a priority.

The link and length tracks are very welcome, and they look great on the finished model with their heavy sag. The inclusion of full-length flexible tracks is a thoughtful concession to less experienced modellers or those who just cannot stand individual links in any form.

Tamiya's 1:35 scale ISU-152 is undoubtedly a beautiful beast. ■

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

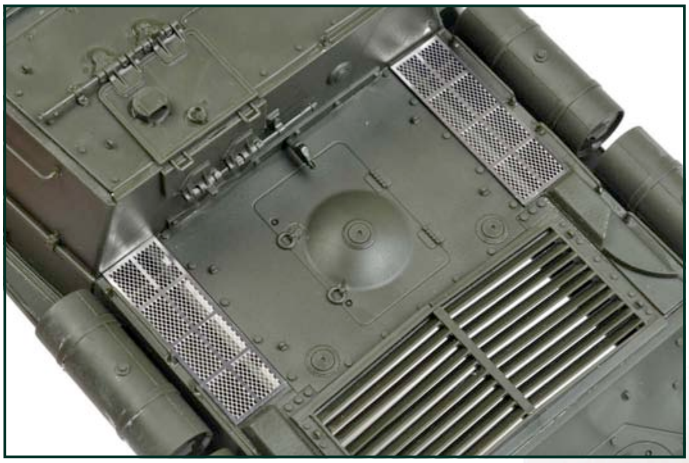
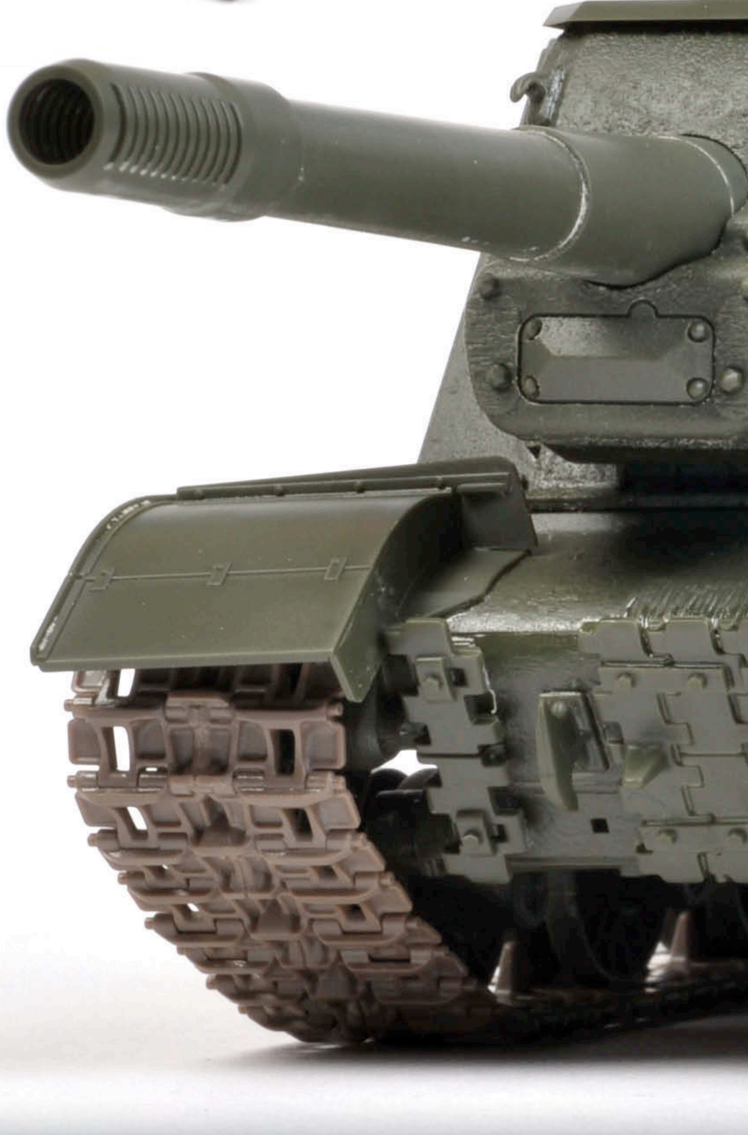
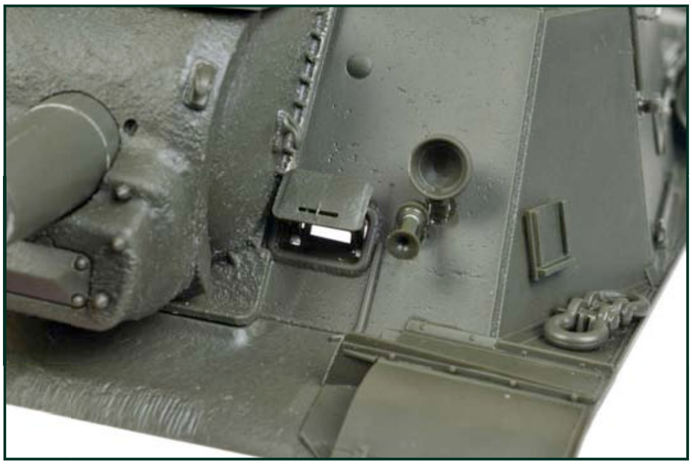
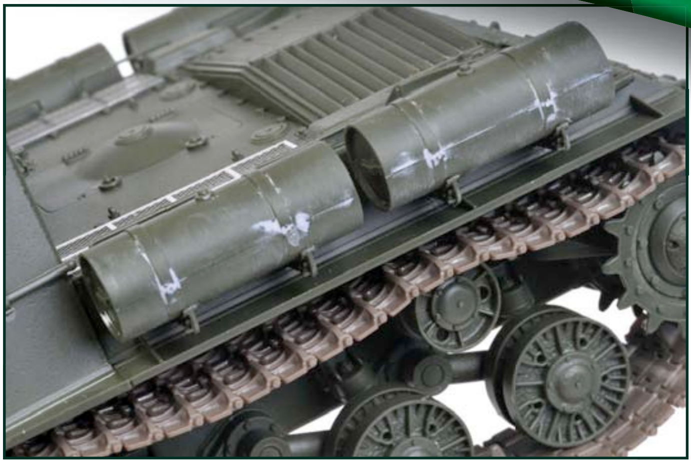


Photo-etched screens cover vent structure beneath the engine deck.

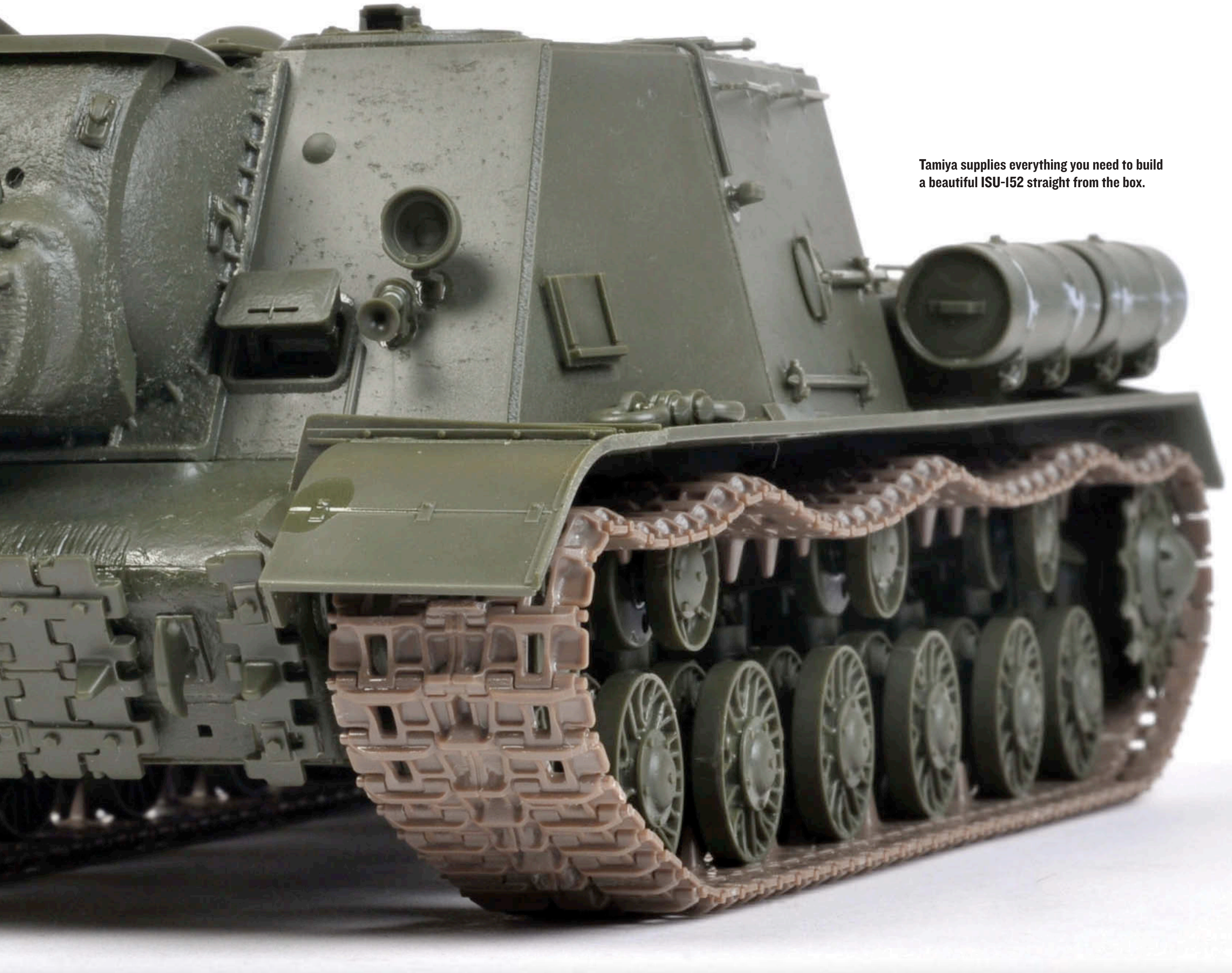




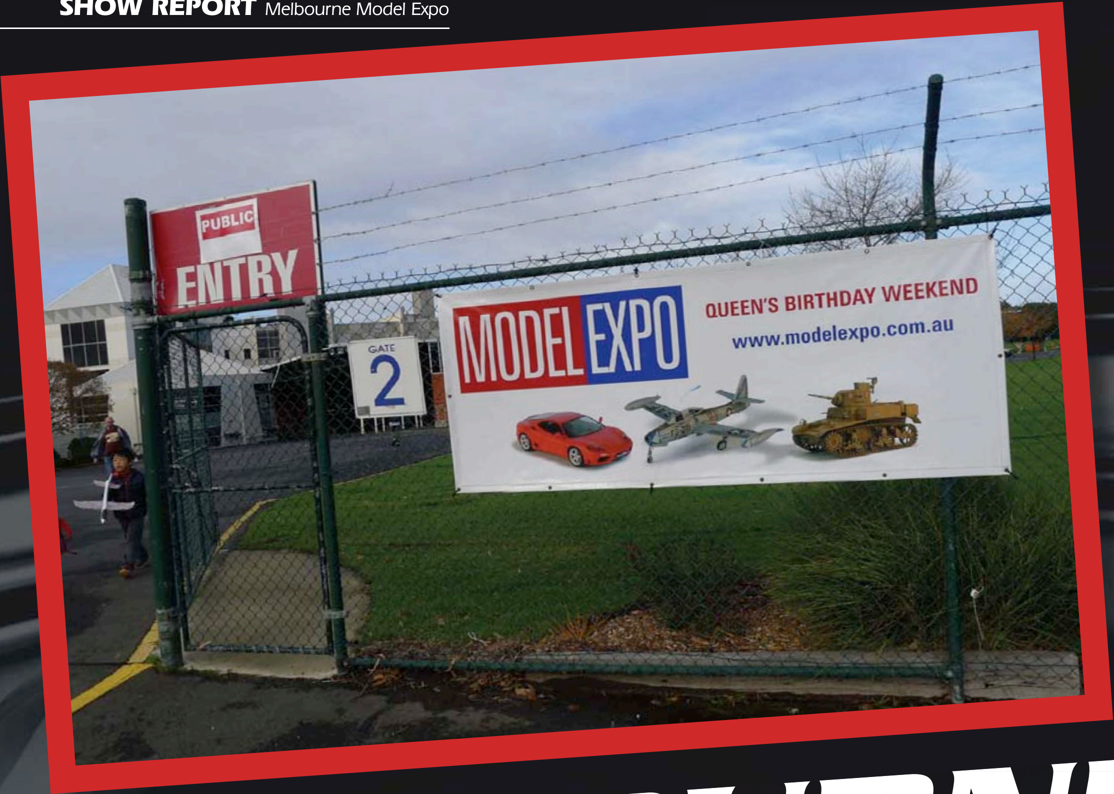
The pitted surface of the armour plate is very convincing. The driver's visor may be posed open.



Seam lines on the external fuel drums needed some attention.



Tamiya supplies everything you need to build a beautiful ISU-152 straight from the box.


PUBLIC
ENTRY
GATE 2
MODEL EXPO
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND
www.modelexpo.com.au

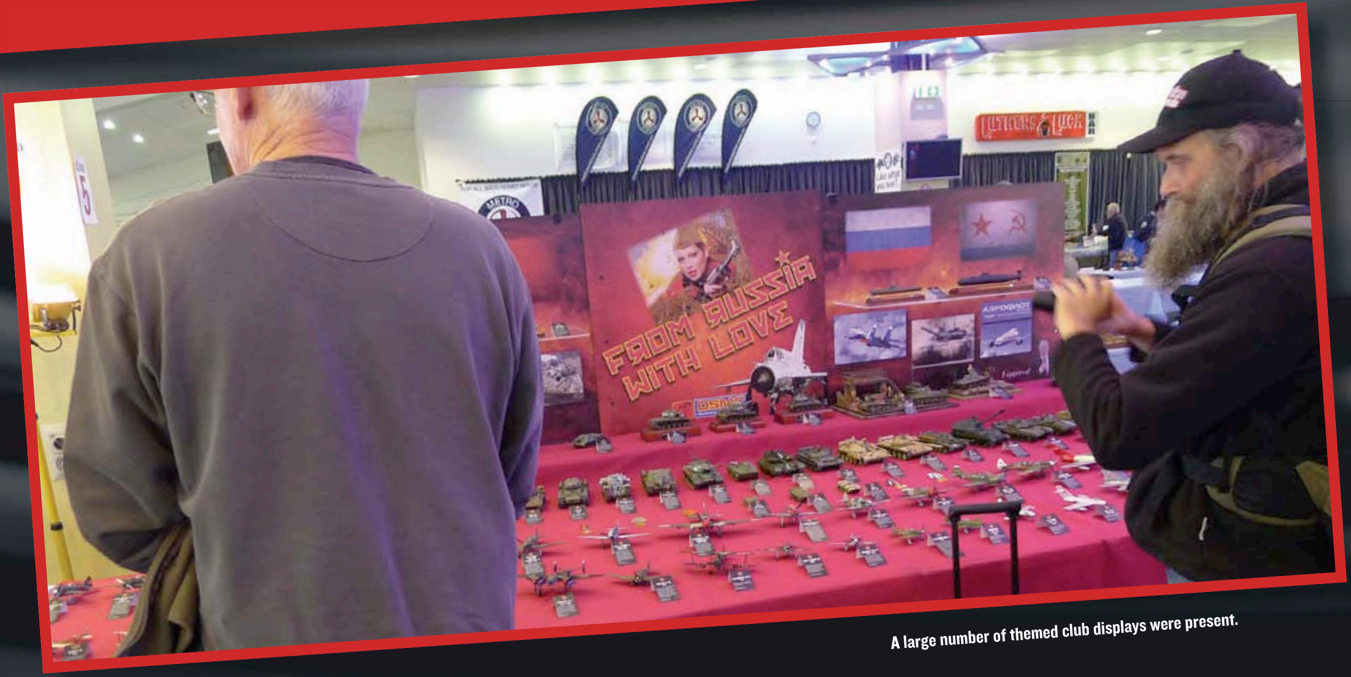
The Editor prowls the aisles of Australia's biggest model show, the Melbourne Model Expo

MELBOURNE MO

Welcome to the show!

Specmod had a large range of interesting military aftermarket accessories, figures and finishing products.

A number of tutorials and demonstrations were held over the weekend.


FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

A large number of themed club displays were present.

DEL EXPO 2016

The Melbourne Model Expo is held every Queen's Birthday long weekend at the Sandown racetrack in southeast suburban Melbourne. The large room was packed full this year, reflecting the mass of competition and display models.

Around 880 models were in competition – smashing the previous record of 720 entries set in 2014. Although the bulk were aircraft models, there was an impressive selection of military and figure kits in competition too.

The standard of competition models was very high, including some imaginative dioramas and vignettes. In addition to the record competition entries, the venue was also swelled by many themed club displays from Victorian model and special interest clubs.

Traders were at full capacity as well, with many familiar companies and some new names appearing on the tables.

Also at the show this year was Neil Yan from HK Models. A number of HK models new and forthcoming releases were on display as well.

The doors opened officially at 11:00 am on Saturday, and the crowds streamed in. It was pleasing to see a large number of families and young people examining the displays.

Expo also always offers a welcome opportunity to catch up with old friends and new acquaintances.

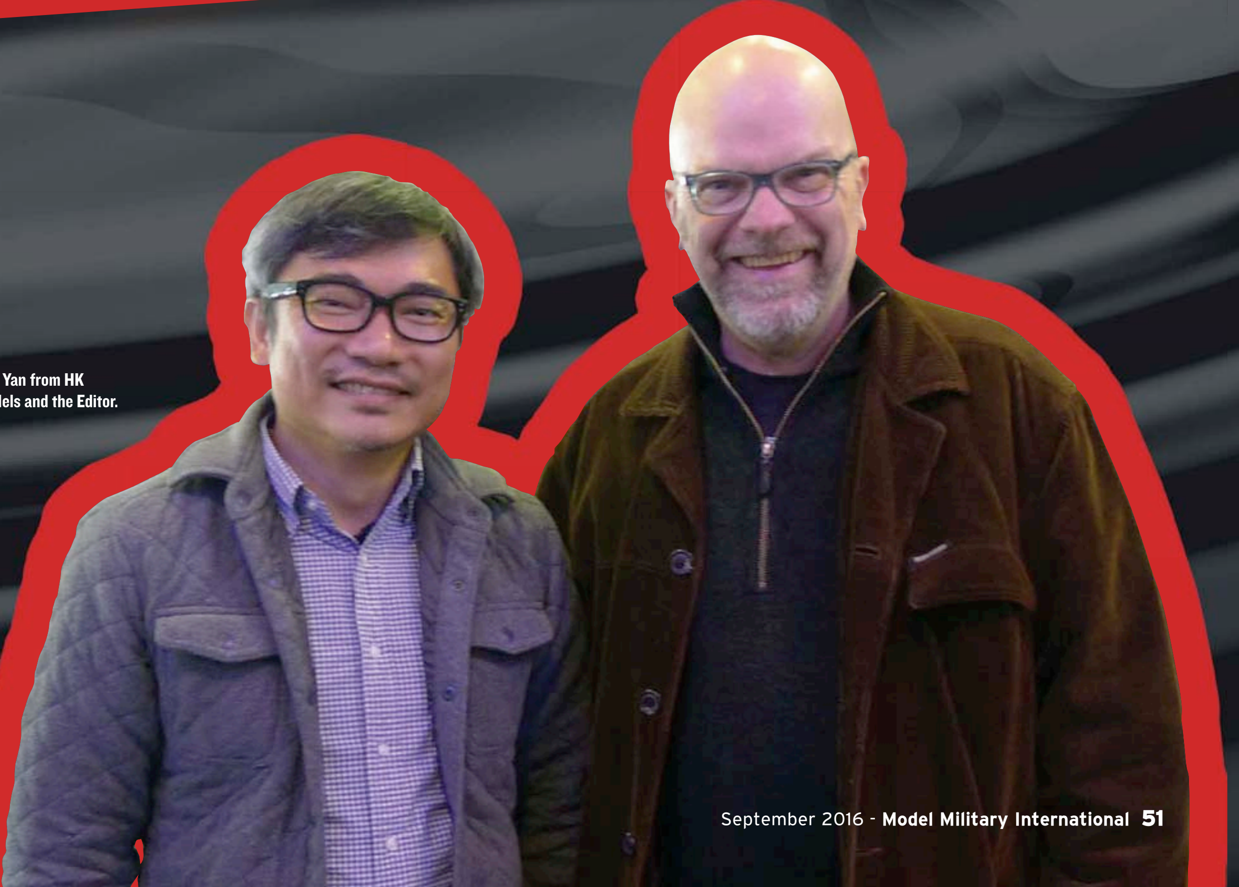
If you are an Australian local or visiting during early June, the Melbourne Model Expo is well worth a visit.

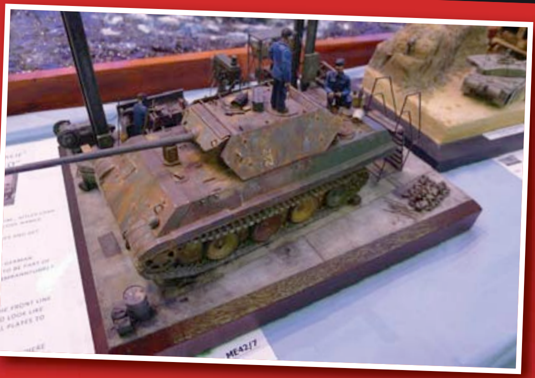
Thanks to the Model Expo Committee and members for their famous Melbourne hospitality during my brief visit. ■

Friendly competition registration volunteers!

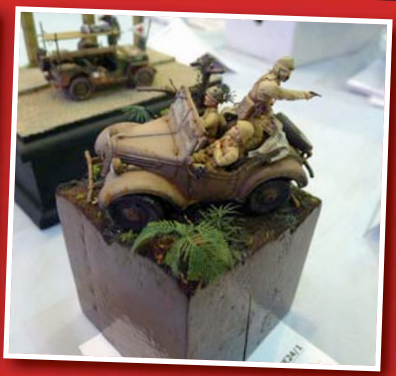
Plenty of reference available from Ronnel's Hobbies.

OR ALL YOUR HOBBY NEEDS
METRO
HOBBIES
Metro Hobbies had a big presence at the show.

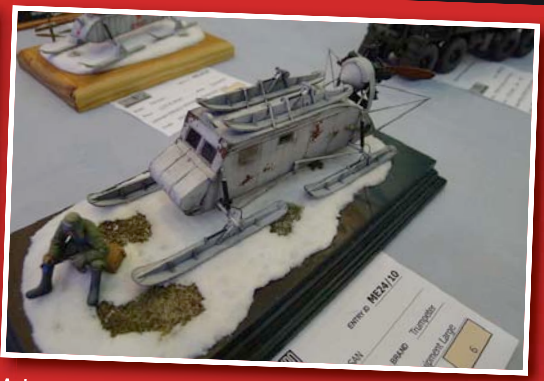

Neil Yan from HK Models and the Editor.



A very impressive Panther M10 under construction for "Operation Greif", based on the 1:35 scale Dragon kit.



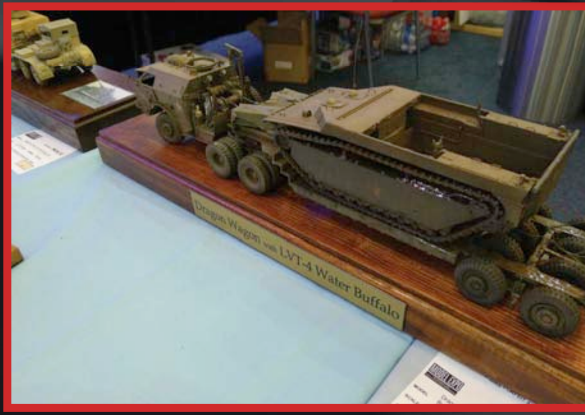
Pit Road's 1:35 scale Japanese Kurogane Type 95 in a small diorama.



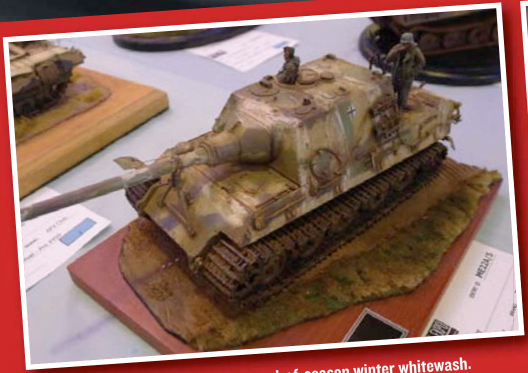
An interesting subject but rarely seen built – Trumpeter's 1:35 scale NKL Aerosan.

I approve!
GAZ 66 LIGHT TRUCK 1966 – 1999

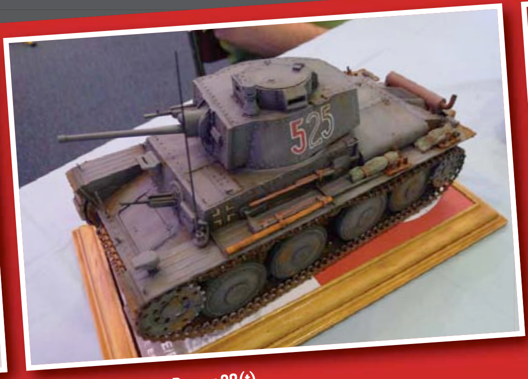
A glowing endorsement!


Dragon Wagon with LVT-4 Water Buffalo

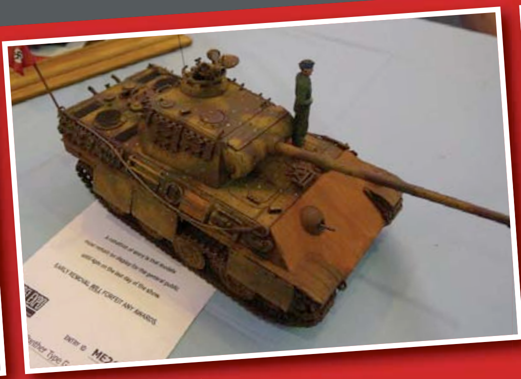
Tamiya's 1:35 scale Dragon Wagon carrying an LVT-4 Water Buffalo.



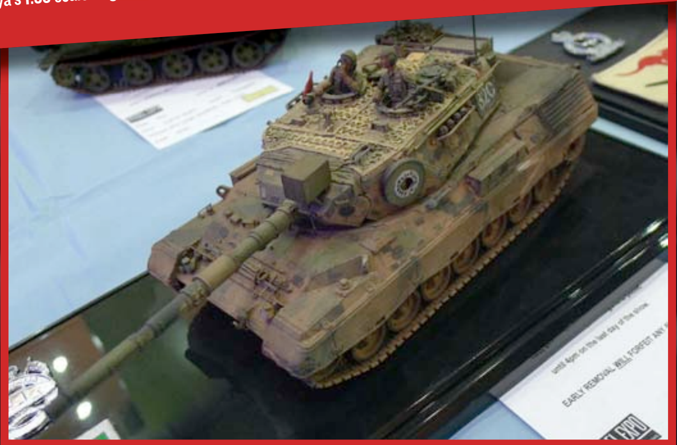
Tamiya's 1:35 scale Jagdtiger in an end-of-season winter whitewash.



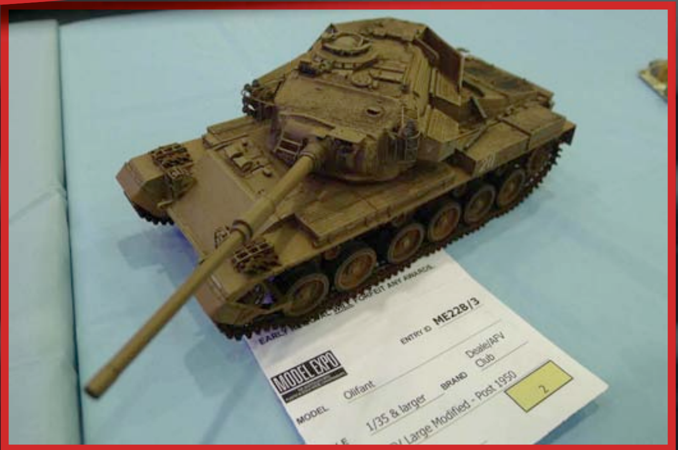
Panda's big 1:16 scale Panzer 38(t).



Tamiya 1:35 Panther Ausf. G



1:35 scale Australian Leopard AS1, based on the Meng kit.



Olifant Mk.I conversion based on the AFV Club 1:35 scale Centurion.

A colourful Takom 1:35 scale Skoda DA Armoured Car, built straight from the box.

Roden's 1:35 scale 1920 Pattern Armoured Car, also finished "OOB".

Krupp 420mm Big Bertha

"Big Bertha" – Takom's Krupp 420 mm gun.

Panzer Shop's 1:35 scale Bat-M Heavy Engineering Vehicle.

Vision Model's 1:35 scale BA-64B Armoured Car in a small but effective diorama.

Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Soviet light tank.

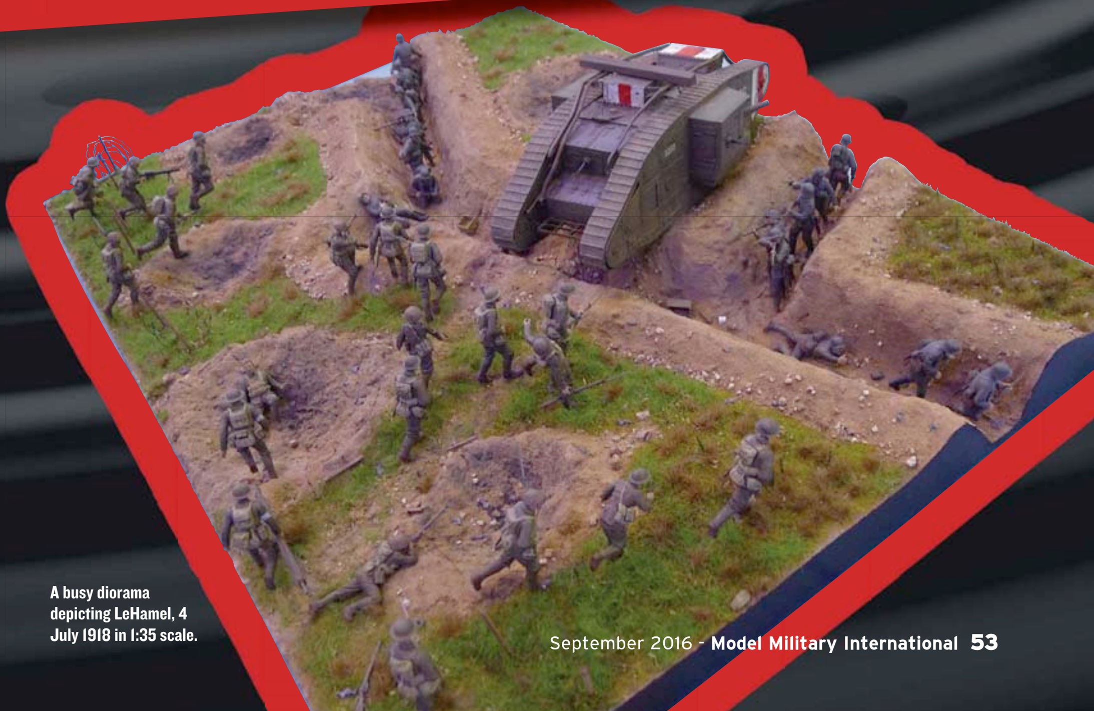
SFOR
ME21A2/11

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale Grizzly Armoured Car – a Canadian vehicle in Bosnia.

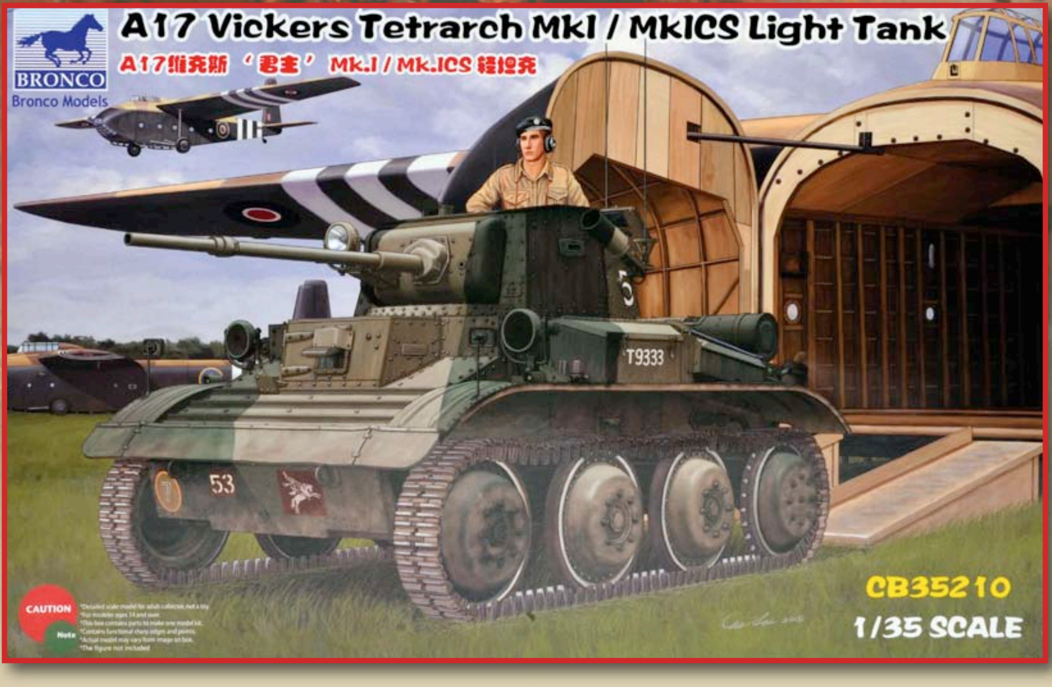
Hobby Boss's 1:35 scale Cadillac Gage M706 Commando Armoured Car.

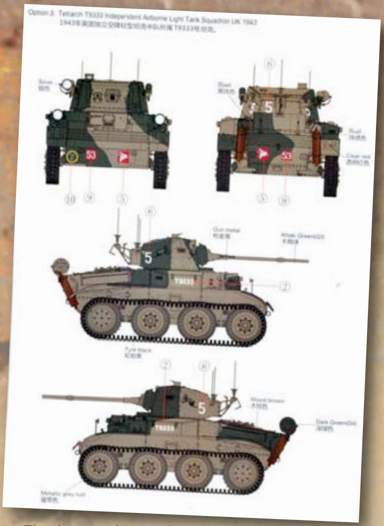
Marder III
Tamiya

Not too many 1:48 scale models in competition this year, but here is Tamiya's 1:48 scale Marder III.



A busy diorama depicting LeHamel, 4 July 1918 in 1:35 scale.





The three marking options feature disruptive camouflage.

Al Bowie examines Bronco's small but amazingly detailed 1:35 scale Tetrarch airborne tank.

AIRBORNE ARMOUR

On 6 June 1944, German troops were amazed at the huge Hamilcar gliders that roared overhead before landing and disgorging their cargo of light tanks. These were the Tetrarch Light tanks of the 6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment and they were the first tanks landed into battle from the air. This was to be the first and last time these vehicles would be used in this role.

The Tetrarch was a private venture Light Tank by Vickers and was intended for foreign sales. It was heavily armed for a light tank mounting the 2 pdr, which was the main armament of the British Cruiser tanks of 1937 when the prototypes first saw the light of day. It was given a limited order for 220 in 1938 standardised as the A17 and given the name Tetrarch. By 1941 this order had been reduced to 170 as the light tank was no longer seen as necessary by the British.

A number were supplied to Russia where it was favourably received and compared well to their contemporary light tanks such as the T70 although more lightly armoured. Some of these saw action against the Germans but little is known of how they performed. Due to overheating problems it was not committed to the fighting in the Middle East however 6 vehicles were committed to Operation Ironclad the invasion of Vichy French Madagascar as part of 'B' Special Service Squadron with 6 Valentine and 6 Tetrarch tanks. They performed well in the vicious fighting although three were lost in action.

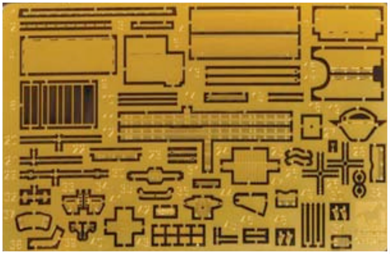
When the British formed their Airborne forces in the early 1940s based on the success of the German Airborne forces they also wished to give their forces armoured support and developed the Hamilcar glider to carry the Tetrarch into battle. They also asked the Americans to investigate an airborne tank that resulted in the M22 Locust, which eventually replaced the Tetrarch in British Service. The Tetrarch was selected as the Airborne tank at a time of great shortages in armoured vehicles in the UK due to the losses of the BEF in France.

The Tetrarch was probably selected as it packed a reasonable punch (at the time) and its relative lightness at 7.6 tons combat loaded. The Tetrarch as stated was armed with the 2 Pounder QF in a two man turret with a co axial 7.92 BESA MG. It had a crew of three and a road speed of over 65km/h.

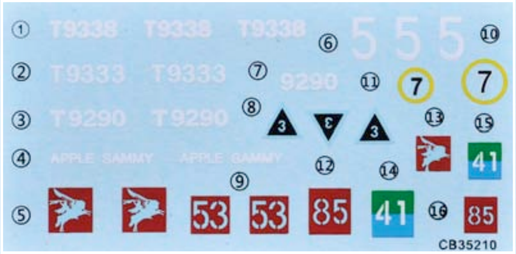
Operation Tonga, the British Airborne element of the D-Day Operation Overlord, had allocated 20 Tetrarchs of the 6th AARR serving in "Parkerforce". No exact figures are available but is believed that 5 of these were the 3" armed CS version. The Mk.I gun tanks all had the Little John Adapter, which was a squeeze bore device designed to increase the muzzle velocity and anti tank capability of the now obsolete two pounders. The down side is that it could no longer fire smoke or HE. It appears a number were lost on the landing but at least eleven served in the bridgehead tasked with the defence of the northern flank of the British and Canadian area of operations.

A number were lost in action and almost all were initial disabled by Parachutes fouling their running gear. At least one enemy SP of Kampfguppe Von Luck fell to the guns of a 6AARR Tetrarch. They were quickly replaced by "borrowed" Cromwells and crewed by 6AARR tetrarch and carrier crews for the rest of the campaign until the AB troops were withdrawn to the UK. This was the last operational use of the Tetrarch as an Airborne tank although they were kept in storage until 1950!

Clear parts.



Many tiny photo-etched parts add to the tally.



Kit markings.

* Historical information sourced from

IN THE BOX

Bronco has established itself in a crowded market by offering kits of non-mainstream subjects or kits of equipment that has not been released before. They have particularly addressed the dearth of British subjects and lately have embarked on a number of Allied Airborne subjects of which the Tetrarch is their latest subject joining its successor the M22 Locust Light tank (Kit CB 35161).

Like most Bronco kits this is highly detailed and complex offering a full interior of this diminutive vehicle. Bronco offer the standard Mk 1 or a CS version armed with a 3" gun although despite giving a full load of 2 pdr ammunition no 3" howitzer ammo is provided.

For such a small vehicle I was surprised to find such a packed box with 600 odd parts and a large PE fret. The vehicle is made up of nearly 400 parts with the remainder being the minute individual track links! Construction appears straightforward although I must warn you if you do not like fiddly little parts then this kit will not be to your liking. Bronco has given a pretty complete interior including a full ammunition load although more on this later.

Construction starts with adding details to the hull tub including photo-etched parts for hull side straighteners and a small sub assembly of the driver's steering wheel. The next step builds on the driver's compartment which is very complete with all pedals and a four-part seat. This is followed by three more stages adding larger subassemblies such as the turret floor and hull bracing. So far so good. Not too fiddly - yet.

Step 6 starts the suspension and road wheel mounts. These are made up from multiple fragile looking parts that will require careful removal from the sprue. This goes on for three steps in the instructions that are typical Bronco and clearly show how it all goes together.

Step 9 is pretty straightforward, being the rear crew compartment bulkhead with its eight stowed rounds of 2 pdr ammunition. These feature lovely detail. I would suggest painting these sub-assemblies as you go as they will hard to access later in the build. We follow this with the multi part glacis including the driver's hatch, which is very detailed. No option is shown to display this open.

We then proceed to the upper hull walls and all the internal stowage including more 2 pdr rounds and some smaller photo-etched pieces. The instructions do not make very clear how you are to assemble and fit these as they show a final assembly that bears little resemblance to the parts in breakup – good luck. Fortunately, you may be able to leave this off as it is so miniscule and is the forward mount of the Fire Extinguisher jammed into the forward bulkhead.

If you haven't painted the interior yet do so now. We now start putting the subassemblies together to form the upper hull and add the tracks which hare made up of 98 minute pieces each. They do not appear to be click together. Upper hull and fenders are then added followed by the upper deck which just leaves us with the small two-man turret. No problems you say? This is where I suggest you take a break and find a zen moment before continuing. This will require patience and has many small and ridiculously smaller PE parts such as the smoke grenade tin that is made up from multiple dividers all less than 1 mm in length. Fantastic detail but a nightmare to assemble.

A very detailed no 19 Radio set is included with a lovely little set of headphones which is a nice touch. The complex external folding antenna mount is provided as a mix of photo-etch and styrene and two of the three antenna mounts have photo-etched guards. A superbly complete and detailed two-pounder gun and breach is provided as well as the BESA MG and sighting apparatus. I should note here that they give the option of the 3" howitzer but they only provide the barrel so you cannot display this with the turret hatches open as the gun will be wrong as well as the stowed ammunition. The turret is a kit in its own right but absolutely first-rate detail that matches the photos that I have managed to find. We now have just the external fuel tank to add and hopefully you will have a lovely looking Tetrarch to add to your collection.

Marking options are provided for three Vehicles in two different schemes, SCC2/SCC 14 Brown black and the earlier G3 G4 Khaki and Dark Green.

Markings are for:

1. Mk.I with Little John adaptor - T9338 "Apple Sammy" 6th AARR Normandy Jun 44
2. Mk.I - CST9290 Independent Airborne Light Tank Sqn RAF Tarrant Rushton Jan 44
3. Mk.I with Little John adaptor – T9333 Independent Airborne Light Tank UK 1943

The markings are well done with little flash and I only have one concern with the schemes being option 3 which is unlikely to have had a Little John adaptor in 1943.

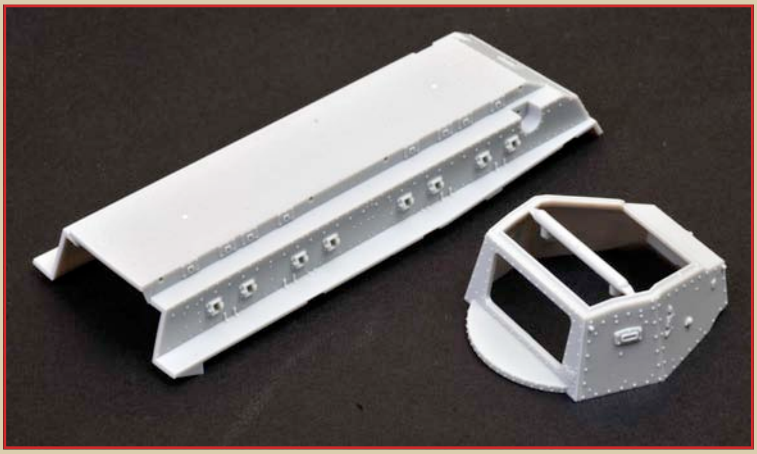
CONCLUSION

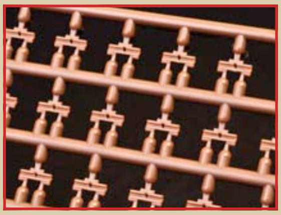
This is a very well detailed kit including a full interior for a Mk.I Tetrarch, It contains a gun barrel for a CS variant however it only has an interior for a Mk.I and not the CS variant. Other than the overly complex build this is my only criticism. It is a complex but complete build and whilst some stages are challenging and require an Optivisor, I am sure this is well within the ability of an average modeller with patience.

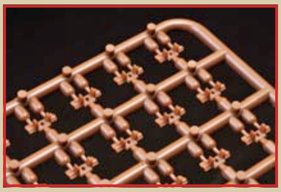
It adds to Bronco's growing range of Airborne subjects and offers a unique subject for the first time in injection moulded plastic.

Highly Recommended. ■

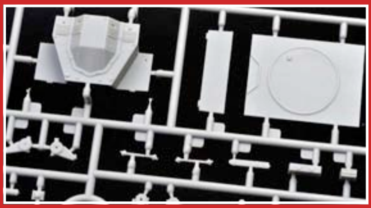
Sample purchased by the reviewer.


The one-piece lower hull and the turret shell.

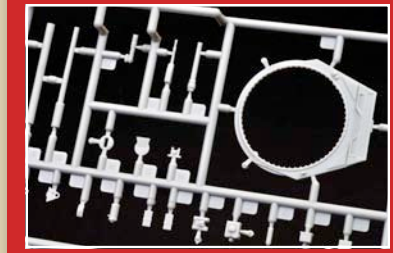

Tiny tine track links!


...and the other side of the links.

Well detailed road wheels.


Raised detail looks great.

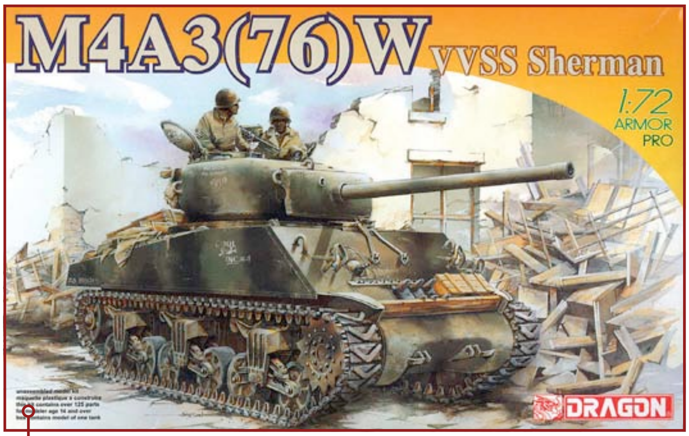
Some of the many small interior detail parts.


The toothed turret ring.

Hull sides.

Track guards.

Main upper hull part.



DRAGON ARMOR PRO SERIES

1:72 SCALE
M4A3(76)W VVSS SHERMAN
KIT NO. 7271

Dragon has released another in their line of Sherman tanks, this time the M4A3 with the long 76mm gun, wet stowage and welded hull, and despite the variable quality of the Armor Pro range, this kit seems to be very well produced. The kit comes in Dragon's standard lid and tray box with excellent artwork on the lid, and consists of over 125 parts on three sprues and separate upper and lower hulls. The kit is completed with a set of DS tracks and a sheet of decals. There is no etched brass included which is a great pity as some of the parts although well moulded would be perfect in scale thickness brass.

The upper and lower hulls are very well moulded showing much use of slide- moulding, though purists would prefer not to see so many moulded on tools. These can be carefully removed with a little care and replaced with after-market products. A plus point for this kit is the fact that all the hatches are separate and can be posed open or shut, enabling crew figures to be added.

Sprue A contains the turret, main gun and details as well as the lower hull transmission cover and tail plate. The details are again extremely well produced with many small and delicate parts that will need extra care when removing from the sprue. A choice of gun barrels is included, with or without muzzle brake.

Sprue B has all the hull details, including tools, hatches and tiny towing shackles! The headlight brush guards are well moulded but are items that would have benefited from etched brass replacements. This sprue also has one of the best .50 cal machine guns I have seen in plastic!

Sprue C has all the suspension units, road wheels and sprockets, which, with the DS tracks make up the running gear for the vehicle. The road wheels are moulded on to the back of the suspension units and may prove difficult to paint when assembled on the hull, a heavy application of mud and dust may be needed here!

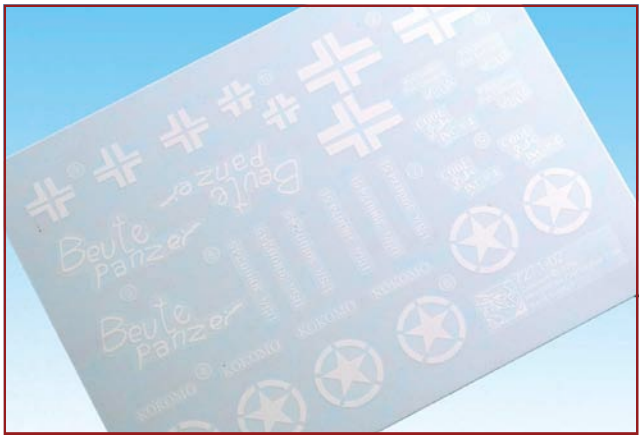
The well printed instruction sheet gives paint and decal schemes for four vehicles, two American, one British and one 'beute panzer', captured and used by the Germans in 1945. The decal sheet is all white but very finely produced by Cartograf, including names and slogans.

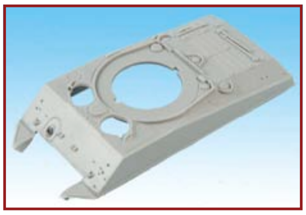
All in all, this is another fine example of Dragon's best work and will build into a fine model of a well known vehicle.

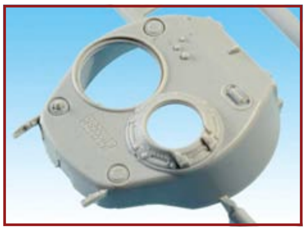
Highly Recommended.

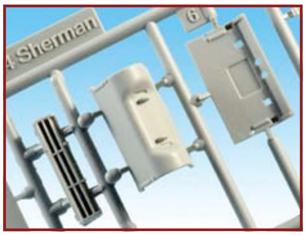
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

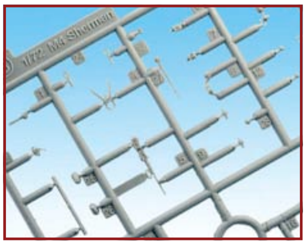
Steve Shrimpton

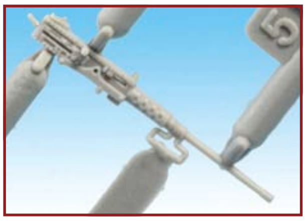


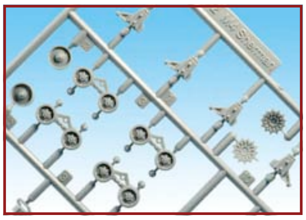


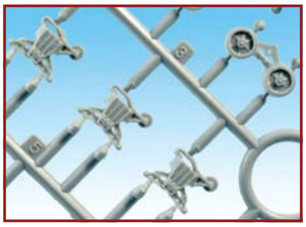


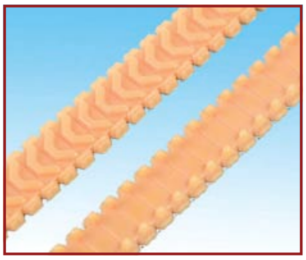


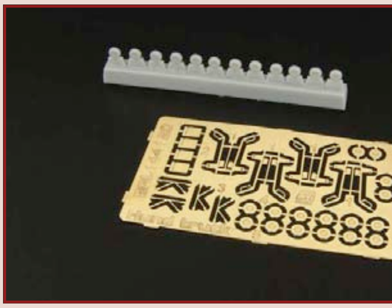


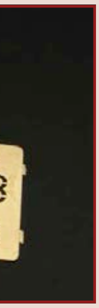












BRENGUN

1:144 SCALE

CZECH REPUBLIC

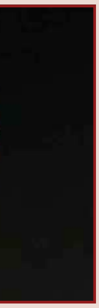
HAND TRUCK (4 PCS)

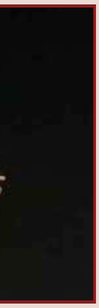
BRL144120

Here's a simple but handy set of four hand trucks that will be ideal for workshop or warehouse dioramas, or use with N-gauge railroads. Each truck is made from three photo-etched parts and a choice of a pair of pneumatic or solid tyred wheels; these being resin or two sandwiched photo-etched discs respectively (there are six resin and two photo-etched wheels spare). The quality of components is excellent, and very clear instructions are included. Recommended.

Available online from Brengun www.brengun.cz

Mark Davies





HAULER

1:72 SCALE

KUBELWAGEN TYPE 82 PE DETAIL SET FOR THE S-MODEL KIT

ITEM NO. HLH72049

Hauler has released a simple but effective photo-etched detail set to add some beneficial detail and scale refinement to S-Model's Kubelwagen Type 82 kit (the PE fret has sufficient parts for both kits in S-Model's twin boxing). The enhancements to the vehicle are clearly laid out in Hauler's instructions. The accompanying images illustrate the set applied to an assembled example of the S-Model kit. Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

Mark Davies

HAULER

1:72 SCALE

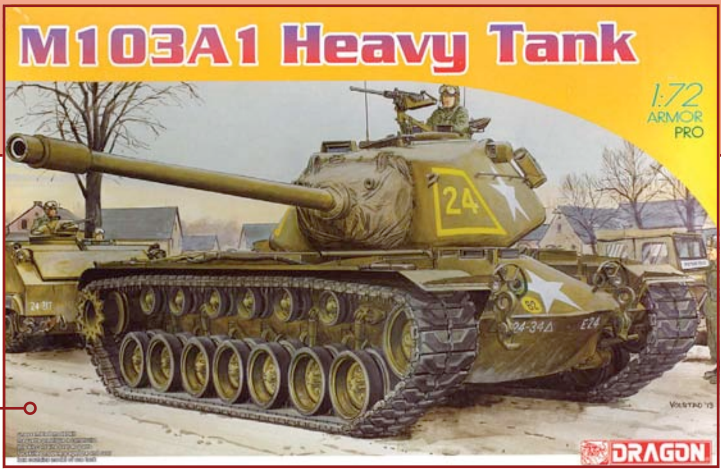
SD.KFZ.2 KETTENKRAD & PAK 3.7CM PE DETAIL SET FOR THE S-MODEL KIT

ITEM NO. HLH72050

Haulerh has released a simple but effective photo-etched detail set to add some beneficial detail and scale refinement to S-Model's Sd.Kfz.2 Kettenkrad & Pak 3.7cm kit (the PE fret has sufficient parts for both kits in S-Model's twin boxing). The enhancements for both vehicle and gun are clearly laid out in Hauler's instructions. The accompanying images illustrate the set applied to an assembled example of the S-Model kit. Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

Mark Davies



DRAGON ARMOR PRO SERIES

1:72 SCALE

M103A1 HEAVY TANK

KIT NO. 7519

It is hard these days to follow the approach of Dragon with their Armor Pro series of kits, some of which are amongst the very best on the market today. Others, however, fall far below that standard for some unknown reason, and this seems to be one of those. The promise is all there - a new kit of an important early Cold War heavy tank, but the larger box with superb Volstad artwork holds a disappointingly small number of parts which resemble a ready-made model in kit form.

There are three sprues of grey styrene and a small decal sheet, with a parts count of approximately 47 parts! Having said that, the actual quality is good with slide-moulding used extensively on the larger parts, especially the turret and hull halves. But this is where the good news ends as all the hatches are moulded shut and the wheels and tracks are moulded together, two halves making up each track run. The detail looks reasonable but it is difficult to say how this will work in practice. Also there are no guide teeth on the insides of the tracks. The fenders are again well moulded but tools and tow ropes are moulded on and may prove difficult to replace.

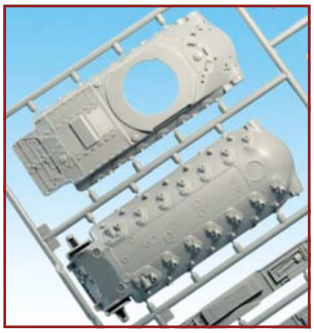
Another annoying feature, which is not exclusive to Dragon, is the lack of canvas cover on the mantlet as nearly all tanks in service had them fitted. The kit is completed with a monochrome instruction sheet and a small decal sheet covering the three colour schemes illustrated in Germany, 1959, two of which are unknown units!

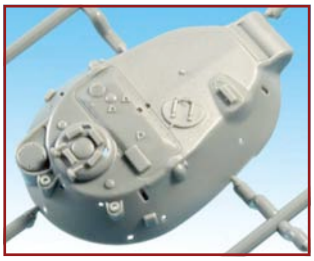
This, I feel, is an opportunity missed by Dragon, as a top class display model will be difficult to produce from this kit, which should fill a gap in a modern armour collection, between the late war Pershings and the M60 series of Col War tanks of the 50s, 60s and 70s.

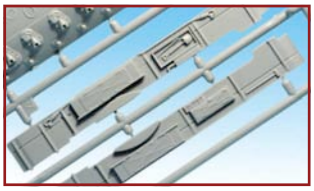
Recommended with reservations.

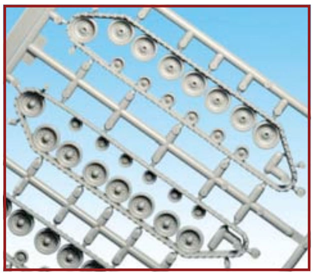
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

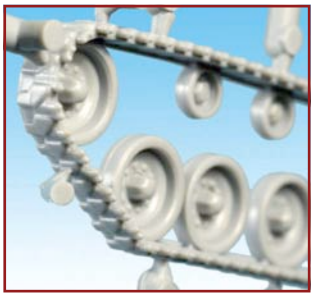
Steve Shrimpton

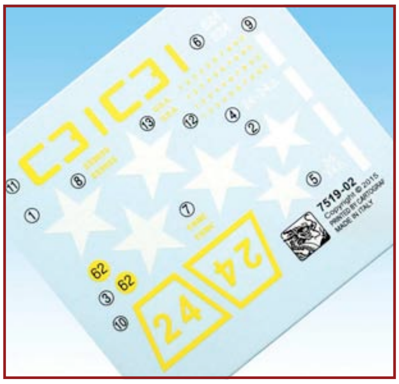


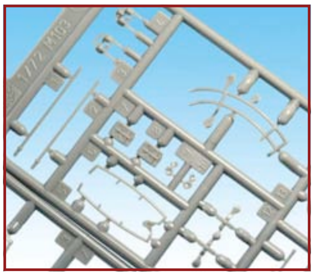












GERMAN BUNDESWEHR SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER
M109A3G
New and re-tooled parts included!
ITALERI
1/35th SCALE
TAMIYA

TAMIYA

ITEM 37022
1/35 SCALE
GERMAN BUNDESWEHR SPG M109A3G

It is always nice when Tamiya gets hold of an old kit and weaves their magic on it, cleaning it up and giving it that extra touch of class. Here is a great example of exactly that.

Yes, it is an older kit by manufacturer Italeri. This one is the 1:35 scale M109A3G as used by the German Bundeswehr.

Inside the box are six various sized sprues containing a total of 303 plastic parts with minimal flash, and appearing to be very well detailed. There is a set of full-length flexible tracks, although these could easily be replaced with aftermarket individual link tracks if desired.

There is also a nice pair of tankers, from Tamiya in the correct period equipment that will sit very nicely in this vehicle and give it that nice touch of life and scale.

There are decals with two marking options, being the artillery school and also 1445th Armoured Artillery Battalion from the 1990s. The camouflage for both is in the NATO tri-colours.

Instructions are the normal, excellent Tamiya quality, well drawn and easy to follow.

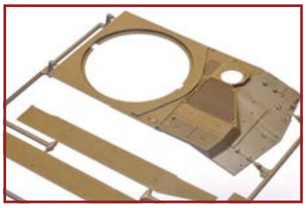
I am quite sure this will be a welcome addition to the modern armour modellers collection, and I for one can say this sample will be built in the very near future!

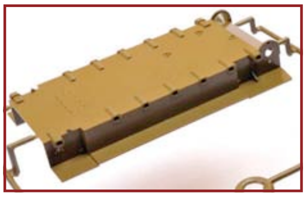
A great kit for all level of modellers.

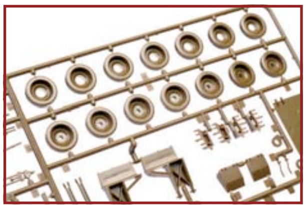
Recommended.

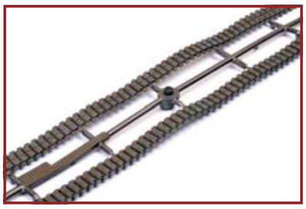
Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com

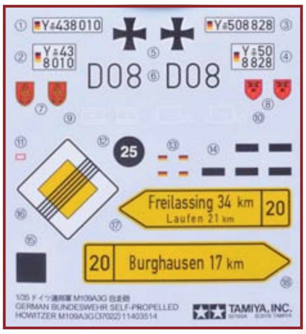
Andrew Judson











DEF MODEL

1:35 SCALE
U.S. WILLYS SNOW CHAINED WHEEL SET. ITEM NO. DW30036
KUBEL / SCHWIMMWAGEN WHEEL SET; ITEM NO. DW30038
CENTURION MK 5/1 MANTLET W/CANVAS COVER SET; ITEM NO. DW35058

DEF Model has sent along three new accessory sets this month. The first is a set of 1:35 scale snow chained wheels for a Willys jeep. They are designed for either the Tamiya, Dragon or Bronco kits in that scale. A lot of aftermarket companies have produced sets along similar lines, but these ones I believe are far better than the rest. Not only do they have outstanding hub and tyre detail but the show chain is a far better representation than I have seen elsewhere to date. The real innovation is the type of chain that has been used. As with most show chains of the period, the pitch or chain link size was slightly larger on the connecting sidewall surface than on the running surface. DEF has captured this aspect beautifully.

The next set of wheels is designed for either the AFV Club or Tamiya Volkswagen kits. The tread pattern and manufacturers logo on these wheels are simply breath taking in their execution. This set is unique, as it has two types of hubs are separately included. These are simply inserted in place for either the Kubelwagen or Schwimmwagen. The real bonus here is they could be used as a basis for a wheel changing diorama.

The last set is a canvas mantlet cover for the AFV Club Centurions. The beautifully executed fabric folds on this piece really set it apart and will greatly enhance the AFV kit.

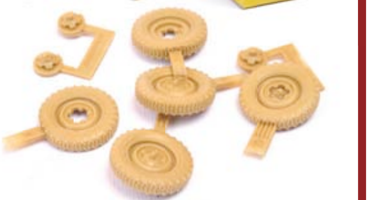
I am a great fan of DEF Model's products. All of these releases are masterfully done and a great pleasure to use.

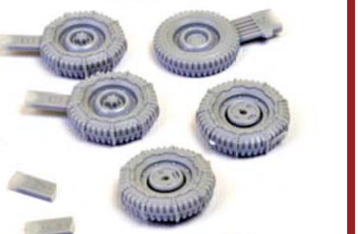
Highly Recommended.

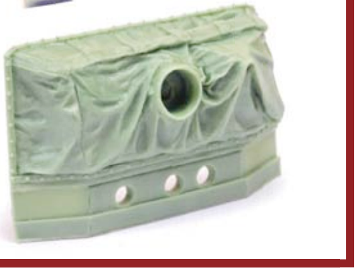
Thanks to DEF Model for the sample http://defmodel.com

Luke Pitt

DEF.MODEL
DEF.MODEL
DEF.MODEL







MIG AMMO

PAINTS
MODERN AMMUNITION COLOURS
AMIG7129

It is always nice when a company releases that handy paint set that covers a topic that, although not massive, comes in so handy such as this one.

How many times have you been painting up a kit and you get to the ammunition and have to wing it with the colours? By that I mean, it's not always something that you think of until it comes up and catches you out.

Well, no more need to worry. Here it is all in one simple set of six acrylic colours in the usual Mig Bottle 17ml in size.

The colours included are as follows.

AMIG194 Aluminium
AMIG196 Warhead Metalic Blue
AMIG197 Brass
AMIG032 Satin Black
AMIG081 US Olive Drab (fs24087)
AMIG212 Silver Grey (fs26373)

I'm not saying that these are special colours purely developed for this set, but they are certainly a handy collection in one package.

Recommended.

Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the samples www.creativemodels.com

Andrew Judson

mig
MODERN AMMUNITION

A.MIG-194
METAL
A.MIG-196
METAL
A.MIG-197
A.MIG-032
A.MIG-081
A.MIG-212
mig
ACRYLIC COLOR

Book Reviews

TANKER
LEFT TO RUST
BRDM-2UM
RUSTY WARRIOR LOWE
GARDEN OF RUST
EXTREME RUST
BURNED RUST EFFECTS
EXTREME OXIDATION CARGO VAN
M4A2
AND MANY MORE
STEEL OXIDIZATION AND ITS PREVENTIVE TREATMENT
RATS & RUST

AK INTERACTIVE

TECHNIQUES MAGAZINE
TANKER, EXTREME RUST
ITEM NO. TKM01 EN

I have to confess that I'm a real sucker for a good magazine, and with so many being released, there are now almost too many choices. Having said that though, when I saw this one, I was very keen indeed.

Tanker is a magazine for those wishing to learn weathering techniques with each issue covering a different subject. As you can see the title of this one is Extreme Rust, so hopefully by the end wewill be able to try out some innovative rust effects onto a project they are working on, if needed.

The producers are AK Interactive, and it is edited by well-known and talented modeller Kristof Pulinckx.

The initial presentation is an A4 glossy covered high quality publication, with very appealing cover art and subjects. Inside the mag are 97 glossy pages oozing with beautiful colour pics and great descriptions. On closer inspection there are 19 articles written by some of the premium modellers we all admire. The articles are well written, clear to understand and provide all the information you will need to have a go yourself. The pictures accompanying these are of very high quality and a joy to look at.

In this issue the articles are as follows:

- Steel Oxidization
- Rusty Warrior Lowe, Super Heavy Tank by Kristof Pulinckx
- Garden of Rust by Andrew Argent
- Cargo Van, Extreme Oxidation by Ruben Gonzalez
- Burned Rust Effects, IDF Sherman by Rob Ferreira
- Left to Rust, BRDM-2UM by Fernando Vallejo
- Rats and Rust, by Garcia Gazquez
- Moment of rust, M4A2 by John Simmons
- Rust Reference by Patrick Winnepennickx
- Rusty Iron works on Buildings by Emmanuel Nouaillier
- Painting Dirty Rusty Spare Tracks by Adam Wilder
- The Excavation, Rust over Burned or Submerged Vehicles, T34
- Heavy Duty Container
- Lebanese Scrap Yard by Samer Kassis/Antoine Keldany
- School of Techniques
- Tips and Tricks
- Map of Products
- Gallery of Rust
- In the Workbench by Ruben Gonzalez

As you can see, the contents are quite extensive with a lot of information crammed into the pages, but it works well. I have to say that I really enjoyed this magazine and will keep an eye out for future editions for sure. I am very impressed with this one and recommend it to all who want to learn and strive to build a better kit. You won't be disappointed.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to AK Interactive for the sample http://ak-interactive.com/v2/

Andrew Judson

MR BLACK PUBLISHING

SCALE MODEL HANDBOOK
WWII SPECIAL
ISSN: 2459331101

SCALE MODEL HANDBOOK
WWII SPECIAL
MrBLACK PUBLICATIONS

Mr Black Publishing has now been bringing modellers quite a few publications recently on the subject of figure painting and diorama building. All have been fantastic.

I think that his issue is going to be very popular for the subject, the builders and the very high standards to which the projects have been built.

This issue covers figures, dioramas and vignettes, and all articles are well written with many excellent colour pictures throughout making one feel inspired throughout the read.

In this issue there are 15 brilliant articles as follows:

- Deutsches Afrika Korps by Kaz Tomori
- Rasputitsa! by Carl Startin
- LAH Karkov 1943 by Juanma Vergara
- SS Unterscharfuhrer by Man Jin Kim
- WWII US BAR Gunnerby Toshihiro Sano
- Japanese Officer in a Tropical Hellby Joannis Tsiktsris
- Oberleutnant Georg Briel by Juanma Vergara
- On the Edge of No Man's Land by Kaz Tomori
- Tripoll 1941by Mr Black Studio
- Stalingrad 1942 by Stelios Neofytidis
- German DAK infantry by Toshihiro Sano
- Tips for Beginners by Mr Black
- Blitzkrieg-Vorwarts by Mr Black Studio
- Royal Armoured Corps AFV Crew by Toshihiro Sano
- Battle of Moscow 1941-1942 by Stelios Neofytidis

As you can see, there is quite a lot crammed into this 80 page book, although there is information galore to be gained within the pages.

I would highly recommend this book to all level of modellers whether you collect this series or not. It really is very good.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Mr Black Publications for the sample www.mrblackpublications.com

Andrew Judson

DO I COPY AND ADAPT OTHERS' WORK? ABSOLUTELY!

Lately I have been doing the rounds online mainly to find something, anything, to motivate or inspire me to build.

Over the last few months I have noticed some very dark responses to quite honest requests for help. Some of the responses have been flippant and funny while others, have taken this rather dark tone. I don't know whether it's a product of age, but I find it worrying that supposedly mature adults can sometimes act like schoolyard bullies.

I recently visited a forum and a gentleman wanted to show his latest work posting some photos. From the look of these, the build seemed to be coming along quite nicely. One of the respondents noted the piece looked very similar, but not the same, as another he had seen. For one reason or another the discussion descended into a debate on the moral correctness (of all things) of copying another modellers work. I found the whole discussion to be highly amusing, laughing to myself as I read, thinking these dudes have way too much time on their hands.

I for one copy, emulate, and steal other people's styles all the time. In fact, other people's models are my main source of inspiration. Take for example the landmark dioramas done by Shep Paine in the 1970s. It is my aim one day to downsize that 1:35 scale diorama of a Sherman going through the hedgerows to 1:48 scale.

I have often spoken about developing one's own style when building models. Generally speaking, when you develop a style, you tend to cherry pick from others methods and ideas. It's a very dynamic process, often fraught with disappointment. Over time however, you will tend to favour certain techniques and paint styles and thus your own style will develop.

From my standpoint I have even seen a few of my models being copied at local shows and, to be honest, I found it flattering. The disappointing thing, however was that they were slavish reproductions, even down to the foliage. I'm not a big fan of this approach, tending to think that you don't really learn very much that way. I'm a firm believer in adding your own particular flavour to any style of painting or build technique you tend to copy.

As my dear old Dad used to say, be a leader not a follower. Everyone has a unique style.

Until Next Time
Luke Pitt

TORO MODEL

1:48 SCALE
POLISH INFANTRYMAN - ITEM NO. 48F33
POLISH HOME DEFENCE SOLDIER - ITEM NO. 48F33

Toro Model has again provided modellers with two more very finely details figures from the Polish campaign. The two figures presented for review this month are standing infantrymen. Each is provided with a colour fold out information sheet on the figure they depict along with colour photos of the uniform and a small campaign map.

I like this approach as it provides an easy reference guide for painting and in my view should be the industry standard.

The figures themselves are masterfully done with outstanding facial and uniform crease detail in evidence. Both figures scale out at around five foot nine or ten in the Imperial scale and are spot on is terms of bulk. They just look right for 1:48 scale.

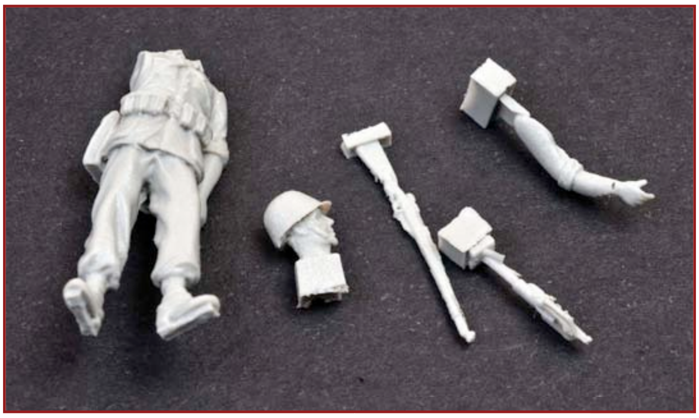
Each figure has a small decal sheet for the ranking bars.

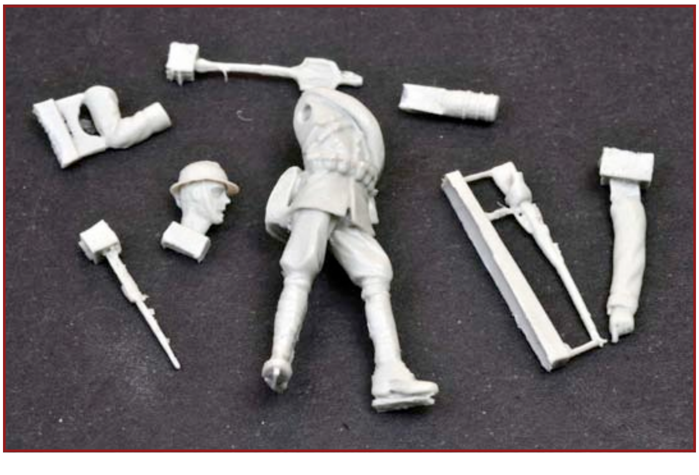
You have to hand it to Toro Model. All of their figures are complete packages and they want for nothing. These pieces will have endless possibilities and limitless potential.

Highly Recommended.

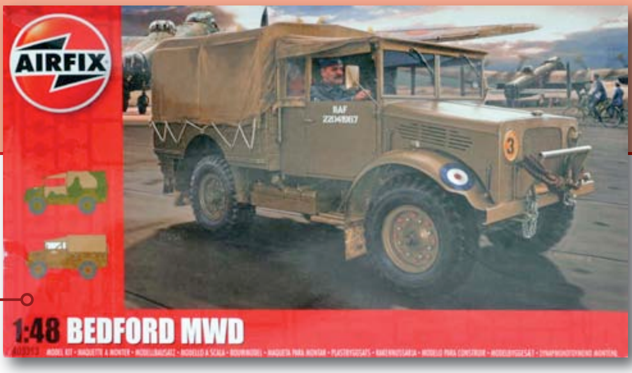
Thanks to Toro Model for the samples
http://toro-model.home.pl
Luke Pitt

SEPTEMBER 1939
Polish Infantryman
(with decals)
1/48
48F33
Żołnierz piechoty





SEPTEMBER 1939
Polish Home Defence soldier
(with decals)
1/48
48F35
Żołnierz Batalionu Obrony Narodowej



AIRFIX

1:48 SCALE
BEDFORD MWD
ITEM NO. A03313

In 1939, the British Army only operated around 15,000 vehicles, which was more than adequate for the relatively small armed force that it was at the time.

By 1945 the number in service had grown to 230,000, much of which was due to the adoption of the Truck, 15 cwt, 4x2, Bedford MWD built by Bedford Vehicles.

The Bedford MWD was designed in response to a specification for a 750 kg truck issued in 1935, and the initial order for 2,000 vehicles was placed in 1939. Manufacture commenced in the same year.

The Bedford MWD was robust and reliable with large wheels, a wide bonnet, rear wheel drive, an open driver's position later replaced with a closed cab, and a number of configuration options for the roof of the cab and the cargo tray.

In the following six years, production reached 250,000. The vehicle was used on all fronts in cargo and personnel carrying roles. The Bedford MWD remained in service until the late 1950s.

Considering the massive usage in British and Commonwealth service, it is surprising that we have not seen a mainstream Bedford MWD in the almost universal scale of 1:35. It is perhaps even more surprising that Airfix has beaten the 1:35 scale brigade to the punch with a 1:48 scale MWD.

The new Airfix 1:48 scale Bedford MWD comprises 88 parts in pale grey plastic, seven parts in clear plastic and decals for two marking options.

Moulding quality is generally good with only a bit of flash and minimal imperfections.

Surface textures are really good, especially the stretching and draping of the cargo and cab tilts, as well as the rope tie-downs moulded to the cargo sides. The tyre tread pattern is probably a bit too chunky, but the real thing was pretty coarse.

The model may be built into a minimum of four configurations:

- Early version with canvas doors, open cab and tray
- Early version with canvas doors, covered cab and open tray
- Early version with canvas doors, covered cab and covered tray
- Late version with enclosed, canvas cab roof and covered tray

You'll have a few spare parts left over!

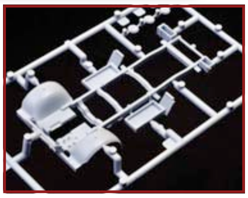
The model is broken down conventionally with a separate chassis, upon which is built engine and radiator, cab details including pedals and gear shift, separate tray, tray sides etc.

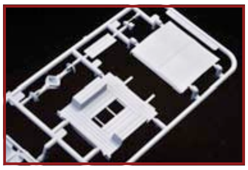
Airfix's 1:48 scale Bedford MWD is great news for all 1:48 scale modellers, be they of the aircraft or military persuasion. This is a really nice model in its own right, but will be ideal for use in an airfield or battlefield diorama.

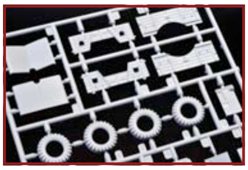
Highly Recommended.

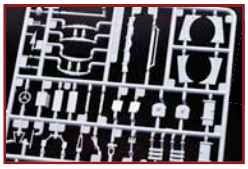
Sample purchased by reviewer.

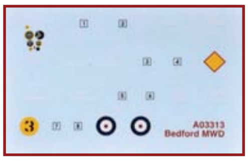
Brett Green











FIGURES WITH ATTITUDE

1:48 SCALE
SITTING/ CROUCHING US TANK CREW
ITEM NUMBER NOT QUOTED

Figures can be the ultimate counterpoint to any model. They relay a sense of scale to the models we produce and, if presented well, can be a detail hot spot that draws the casual observer toward the chosen piece.

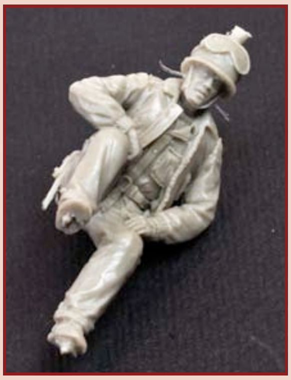
This month we review three American Tankers from Figures with Attitude. The casting is flawless on all figures sent for review and each figure is a complete casting with only the last figure coming with a separate head and gun.

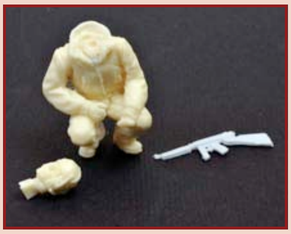
The head sculpts are next to perfect and show great finesse in both detail and charter.

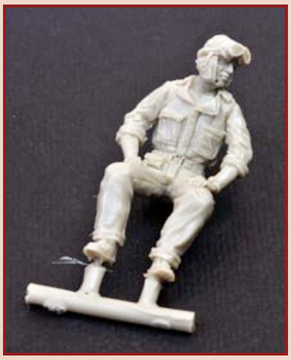
The uniform details are handled incredibly well as are the fabric creases and indeed the casual posing of the figures themselves. Any of these figures would be easily adapted to any US Tank and would be the perfect finishing touch to any 1:48 scale US tank. Even if you buy only one set of 1:48 scale figures this year you should consider these, you will be simply amazed at the detail the exhibit. Figures With Attitude may be contacted on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/FiguresWithAttitude48/

Highly Recommended.

Luke Pitt







1/48
HLX48373
British light utility Car
PAINTING MASKS
(TAMIYA)
Hauler
model accessories
1/48
HLX48372
American staff Car
PAINTING MASKS
(TAMIYA)
model accessories
Hauler

HAULER

1:48 SCALE
AMERICAN STAFF CAR PAINTING MASKS. ITEM NO. HLX48372
BRITISH LIGHT UTILITY CAR PAINTING MASKS. ITEM NO. HLX48373

Hauler has seen fit to expand their 1:48 scale line with a new range of paint masks. The masking material used is the same as every other masking set I have seen and are basically die-cut shapes cut into the material itself.

The first set is for the not often seen (in completed form) Tamiya 1:48 US Staff Car. Included are a full set of wheel masks together with a set of front windscreen and quarter window masks. The set is rounded off with four star masks.

The second set is for the Tamiya English Utility Car and again consists of a full set of wheel masks together with masks for the front and side windows and headlights. Three star masks are also included together with a pretty nifty RAF mask.

These are very nice little sets and would greatly speed anyone's build time.

Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

Luke Pitt

BUYERS GUIDE>>>>>>>>>>>

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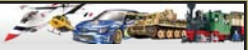

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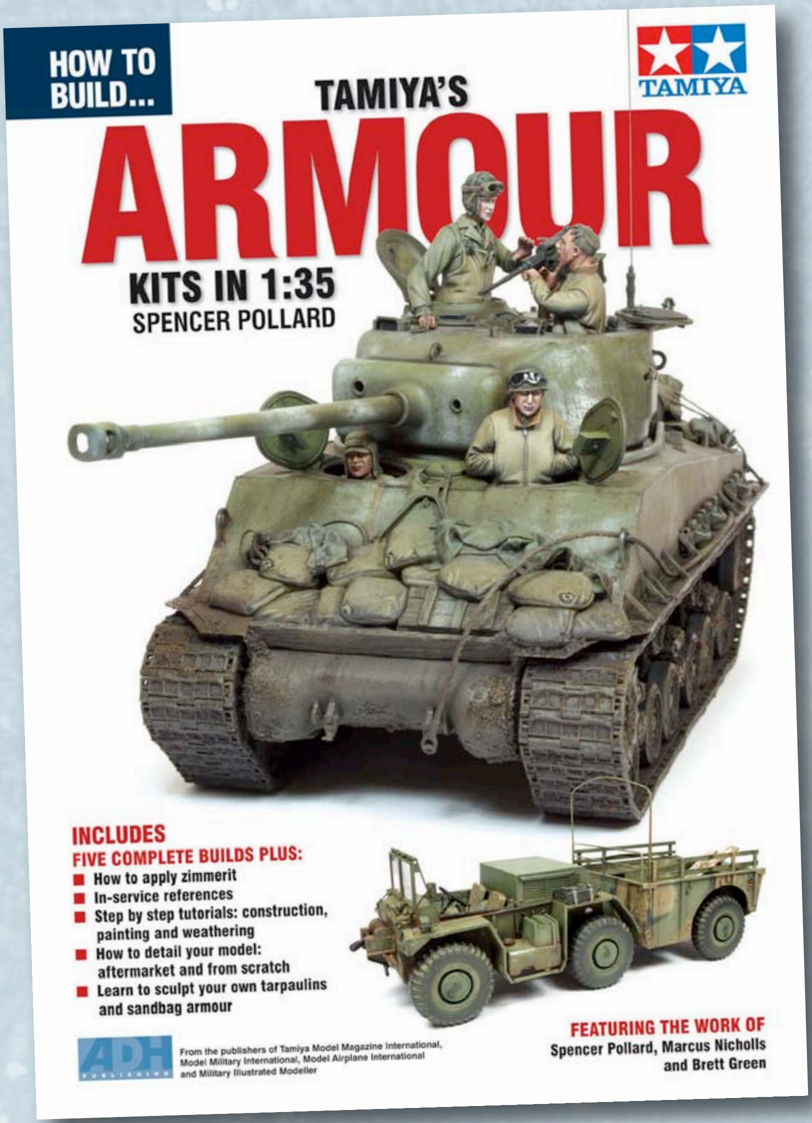

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Jose Brito builds and details Mirror Models' 1:35 scale CMP C15A Lorry, and places it in German service.

SUMMER ON THE STEPPES

Jim Turner converts Tamiya's 1:35 scale Panzer IV Ausf. H into an Ausf. G.

STALIN'S GREEN DEVIL

Pawel Rzymski presents Tamiya's 1:35 scale IS-3.

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Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

SAUMUR INTERNATIONAL MODELLING EXHIBITION 2016

Pawel Rzymski reports from a model show in a very spectacular setting!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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MILITARY HISTORY COMES TO THE CLASSROOM

Mobile Military Museum has plans to expand from the classroom to a permanent museum in Scotland.

After a year of planning and two years of hard work putting together displays boards and artefacts, Mobile Military Museum was launched in December 2013. Mobile Military Museum is the brainchild of Ian Inglis, ex Royal Artillery and long term militaria collector. The inspiration behind Ian's obsession with all things military was his Dad. George Inglis MM was also a Gunner, who fought all through WWII. Starting off in North Africa as part of 51st Highland Division, after North Africa he fought in Sicily and Italy before heading home to re-train for D-Day. France, Belgium, Holland and Germany was his route from D-Day until the end of the war. Taking in Operation Market Garden and Operation Veritable, where he was awarded the Military Medal.

"My dad died when I was 9 and I was given his WWII medals. That inspired me to follow in his footsteps, so when I left school, I went straight into Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery. Serving for a total of 21 years, both in the regulars and the TA.

After a lifetime of collecting Militaria, then chatting with a teacher friend, the idea came about to take some item to schools and talk about the WWII, but the idea soon developed from a few boxes, into a huge collection taken in to schools".

Mobile Military Museum was born.

Starting off slowly part time, then building up a good school client base, taking more and more bookings as word started to spread, then after two years Ian left his full time job to concentrate on the Mobile Military Museum. The Mobile Military Museum was set up as an educational resource, concentrating on primary schools, but as word spread about this unique project, enquiries and bookings came from all over the UK for other events, including open days and charity events. The Museum was then asked to visit Corstorphine Dementia project with some artefacts to work with the members of the Jubilee lunch club for a week. It was a great success and the museum has been back for a further two weeks over the past two years.

The collection has grown since the Museum started, not only from purchases by Ian, but from lots of donations, from friends, colleagues, visitors to the Museum and strangers. Ian says ***"The collection is so big now, I can't take it all with me to events, so it's in storage".*** Well, in the attic, spare room, shed, under beds and family members spare rooms, the collection is everywhere.

A suggestion was made to try and open a small museum so that all the collections can go in show. 2015 the idea for Military Museum Scotland was born.

The joint collections are huge, and a few other collections have been offered to the museum, so the original idea has developed even further. The plan now is to set up Scotland's answer to the Imperial War Museum in London. A huge undertaking, but a committee of dedicated collectors have been formed to take this idea forward and make it happen. Charitable status has also been applied for.

As a result the project will need suitable premises, large enough to accommodate the collections along with room for expansion. It needs to be somewhere in the central belt of Scotland, where most of the population live. Grants have been applied for and will continue to be applied for, lots of fundraising events have been planned, including involving Cadet units, who are all raising funds for the project.

They also still require donations of any items of militaria, from pre Boer war up until modern day military, from all three services. Items are also required for the home front display. Everything has a story to tell, from a photo or letter, to weapons and vehicles, everything is relevant. Anything not used initially will go into an archive so that the displays can be rotated.

Military Museum Scotland will be run using the same ethos as Mobile Military Museum. It will focus on the education of future generations, using hands-on workshops. As well as education it will also cater for the general public.

Military Museum Scotland will exhibit artefacts from all of British Armed Services.

If you want more details on Military Museum Scotland, or want to donate either funding or artefacts, you may contact via email mobmilmus@aol.co.uk or check the Mobile Military Museum on Facebook. ***https://www.facebook.com/Mobmilmus/***

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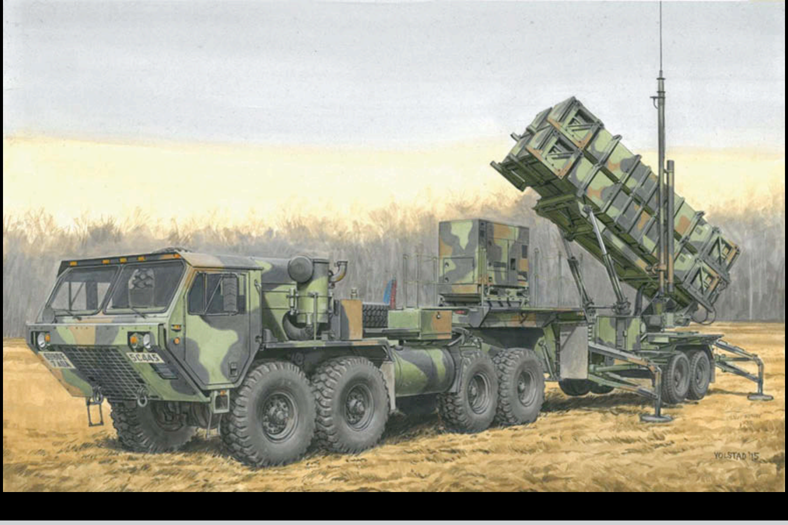
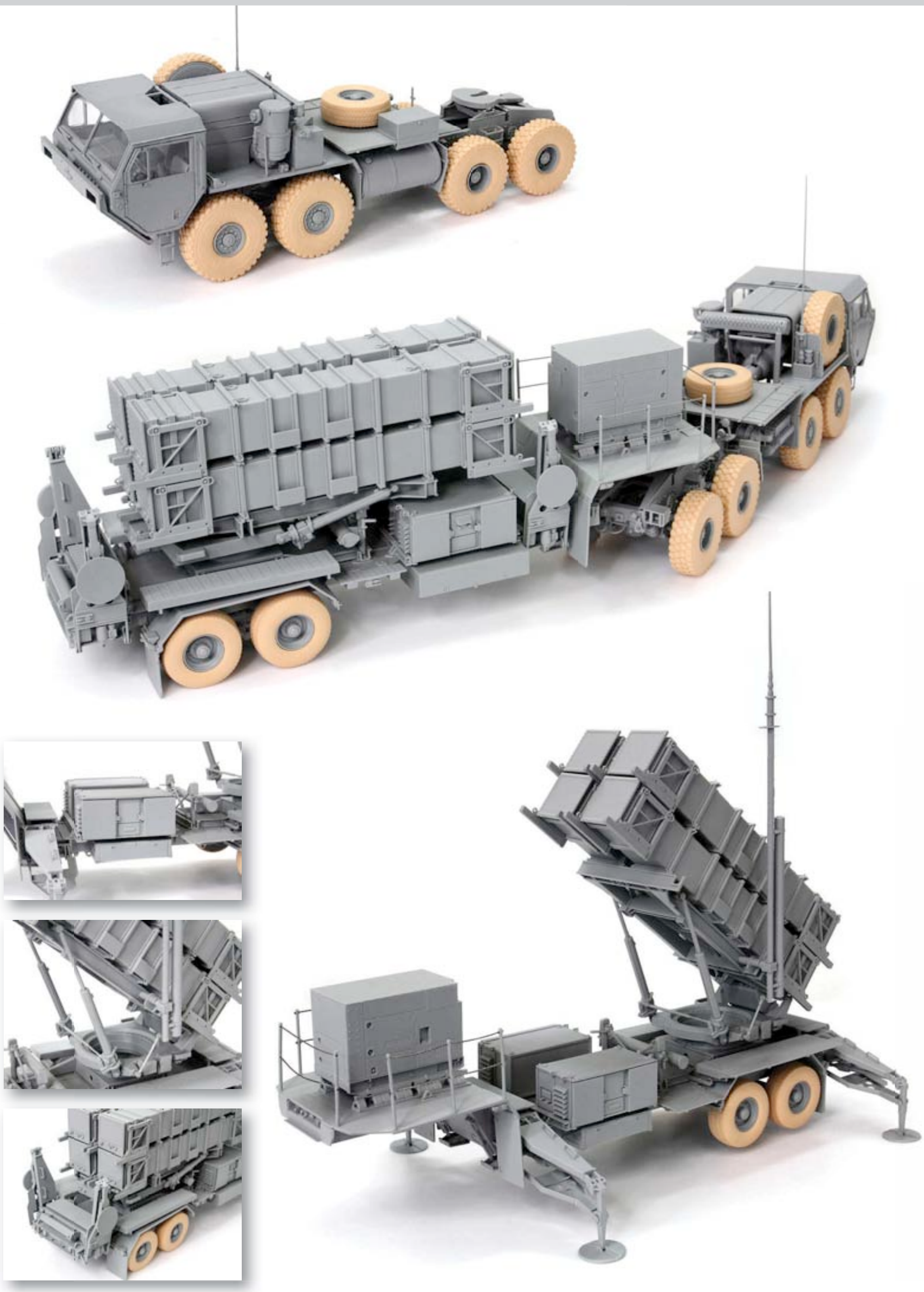


#D3558 1/35

MIM-104B PATRIOT SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE (SAM) SYSTEM (PAC-1) with M983 HEMTT

Black Label is launching its most ambitious project yet in 1/35 scale and, appropriately, it's a model of a launcher! Item No.3558 depicts a plastic model of the MIM-104B Patriot surface-to-air missile (SAM) system complete with Launching Station mounted on an M860 semi-trailer and its associated M983 HEMTT tractor truck. The Patriot Advanced Capability-1 (PAC-1) was a SAM system with an anti-ballistic missile capacity. The MIM-104B anti-standoff jammer (ASOJ) missile allowed it to seek out electronic countermeasure emitters, and so it was an improvement over its predecessor. The trailer-mounted M901 Launching Station is a self-contained unit from which four MIM-104B missiles in canisters can be fired. The M901 includes all necessary items such as the 15kW Launcher Generator Set, and the Launcher Mechanics Assembly that elevates and rotates the canisters. The M860 semi-trailer is towed by the M983 tractor of the HEMTT (Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck) family, this being an 8x8 truck fitted with a fifth wheel. The Patriot, which was previously untested in combat, rose to fame during the Gulf War of 1990-91 when its ballistic missile defence function was exercised against Iraqi weapons more than 40 times.

This 1/35 scale Black Label model kit is fantastic in both its ambition and its execution, with the completed model impressive in its size and detail. Dragon's engineers have created an extremely accurate depiction of this massive combination of truck, trailer and missile launcher. Indeed, modellers can render this model in either transport configuration or in firing mode, making it ideal for a Gulf War diorama, for example. The M901 Launching Station can be posed with the missiles elevated and/or rotated for firing at the correct 38º angle, and with the trailer stabilizers extended. Integral components such as the antenna and generator are all included too, while the vehicle tyres are made from DS for extra realism. Detail such as the tread plate pattern is particularly well done. For modellers willing to launch into something absolutely stunning, this Patriot PAC-1 combination is simply unbeatable!



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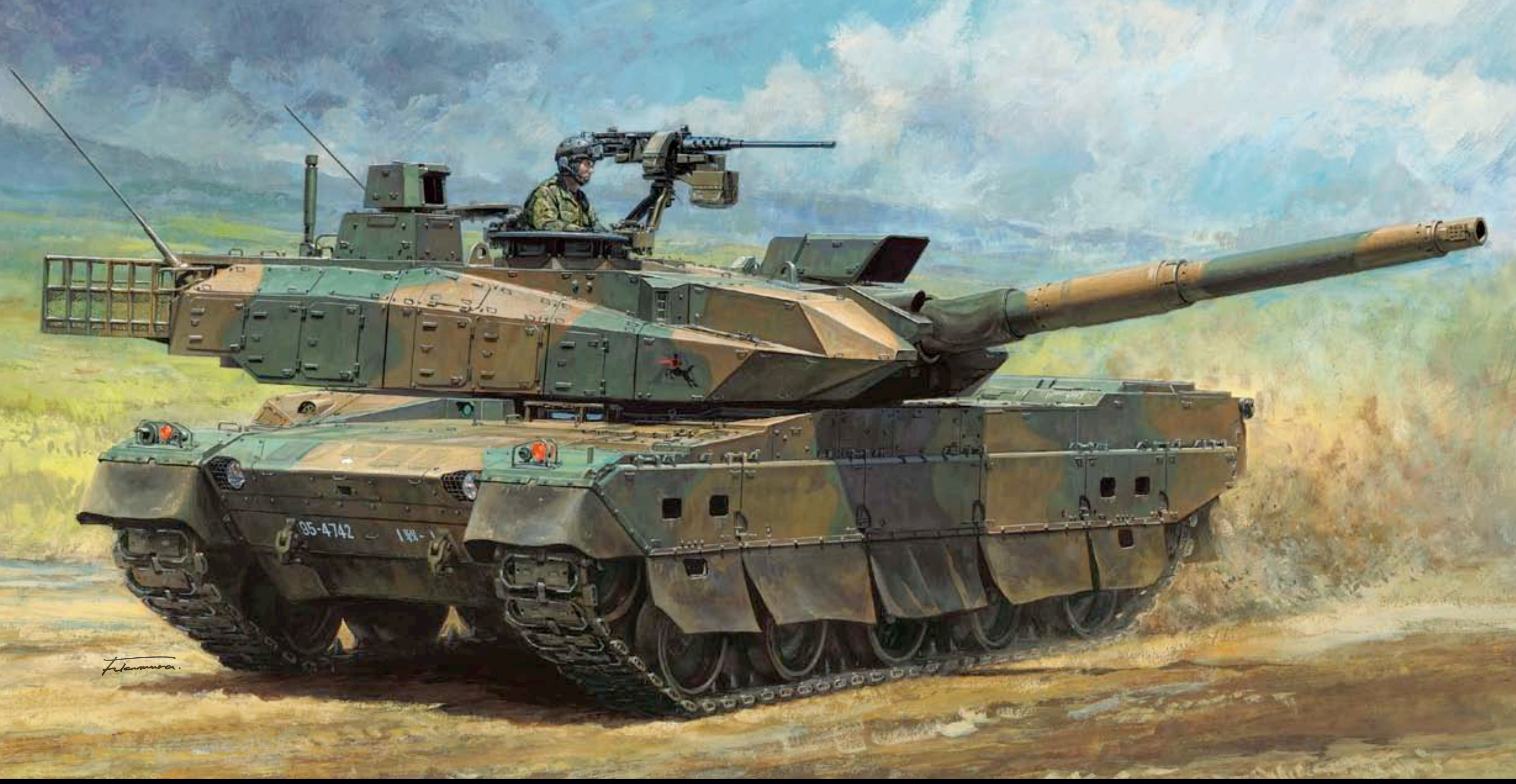

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1/48 Military Miniature Series Japan Ground Self Defense Force Type 10 Tank (Item 32588)

Updated spec Type 10 recreated in compact 1/48 scale, with JGSDF cooperation

The 1/48 Military Miniature series has long been a favorite with modelers on account of its cadre of highly-realistic small scale recreations of classic vehicles and figures. Now, it receives its first model of a currently-serving tank – the Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) Type 10. This compact masterpiece was designed with extensive access to the actual tank, and includes modifications seen in Type 10s from the C4 lot, which were delivered to units from the second half of 2014 onwards. It expertly renders the Type 10's compact and lightweight form, with breathtaking depictions of features such as the domestically-developed smoothbore 120mm gun and the distinctive modular armor, right down to detail like sensors and cameras. It all adds up to a highly refined and up-to-date model that will be just perfect for your collection.

Front mudguards capture new C4 lot designs.

1/48 MM MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

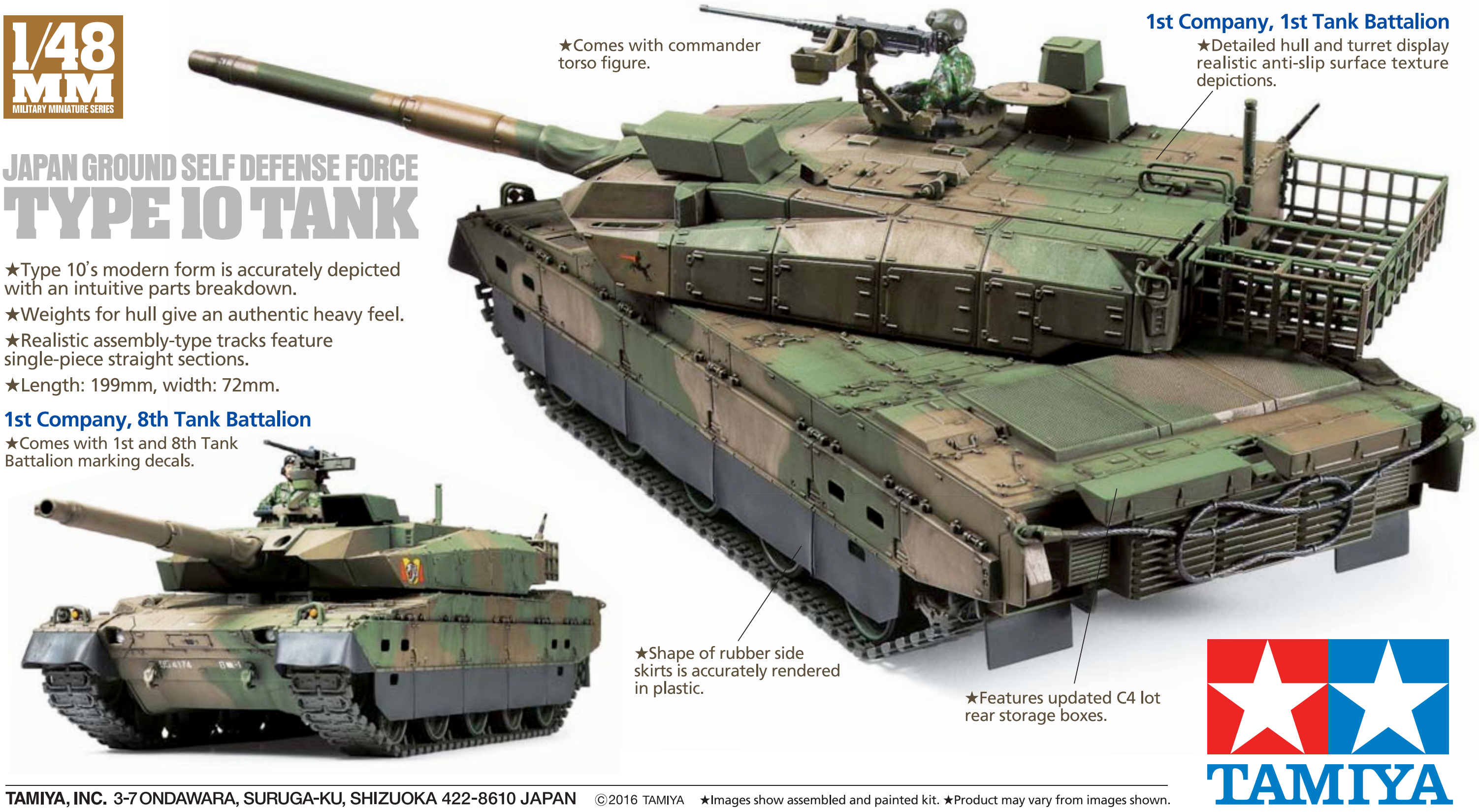
JAPAN GROUND SELF DEFENSE FORCE TYPE 10 TANK

★Type 10's modern form is accurately depicted with an intuitive parts breakdown.

★Weights for hull give an authentic heavy feel.

★Realistic assembly-type tracks feature single-piece straight sections.

★Length: 199mm, width: 72mm.



1st Company, 8th Tank Battalion

★Comes with 1st and 8th Tank Battalion marking decals.

★Comes with commander torso figure.

1st Company, 1st Tank Battalion

★Detailed hull and turret display realistic anti-slip surface texture depictions.

★Shape of rubber side skirts is accurately rendered in plastic.

★Features updated C4 lot rear storage boxes.

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★Images show assembled and painted kit. ★Product may vary from images shown.